

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

GOVT 210

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comparative survey of the scope, methodologies, and major schools of political science, including its links with history, economics, and other cognate fields.

RATIONALE

A good political system helps us to flourish as individuals and families by providing social structure, order, and security. Political scientists seek to know how to organize and structure such a political system in order to bring about human flourishing. This course is intended to give you an overview of the discipline of political science, including its concepts, methodologies, theories, subfields, and purposes. Through this course, you will gain an ability to analyse and critique the field of political science from a biblical viewpoint and become equipped to work in the field of political science or the public policy realm for the glory of God. This course directly supports Aims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office (Word)
- E. Turabian formatting information:
<https://www.liberty.edu/academics/casas/academicsuccess/index.cfm?PID=11954>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Articulate a variety of concepts and approaches to the study of political science and its various subfields.

- B. Identify major political forces, institutions, and theories that reflect and shape political behavior and public policy choices.
- C. Examine various competing political ideologies and positions in order to allow him/her to evaluate political positions and opinions within a Christian perspective.
- D. Research current issues and events.
- E. Differentiate a variety of economic, ecological, demographic, and security problems and challenges within the larger global community and articulate some of the political approaches to resolving them.
- F. Evaluate the history, geography, economies, governments, and behavior of contemporary political agents, such as individuals, political parties, bureaucratic agencies, nations, states, IGOs, and NGOs.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations.
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (6)
Discussion boards are weekly collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 200-300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 100-200 words.
- D. Papers (2)
The student will write two 3-4 page (750-1000 words) papers, in current Turabian format. The Democracy Paper will focus on evaluating the American democracy from both a theoretical and Christian perspective. The Institutions Case Study will require students to compare and contrast the legislative, executive, and judicial institutions in two democratic foreign nations. Both papers must include at least 2-3 scholarly references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.
- E. Quizzes (8)
Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module(s)/week(s). Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 20 multiple-choice and true/false, and have a 45-minute time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 100 pts ea)	600
Quizzes (8 at 20 points ea) (Modules 1-8)	160
Democracy Paper	120
Institutions Case Study	120

Total 1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

GOVT 210

Textbooks: Kevin Dooley, *Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science* (2015).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Dooley: ch. 1 1 article 1 presentation	Class Introductions	0
		Course Requirements Checklist	10
		DB Forum 1	100
		Quiz 1	20
2	Dooley: chs. 2–3 1 article 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
		Quiz 2	20
3	Dooley: chs. 4, 8 1 lecture note 1 presentation	Democracy Paper	120
		Quiz 3	20
4	1 lecture note 2 articles 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	100
		Quiz 4	20
5	Dooley: chs. 5–7 1 presentation	Institutions Case Study	120
		Quiz 5	20
6	1 lecture note 3 articles 1 presentation	DB Forum 4	100
		Quiz 6	20
7	Dooley: chs. 9–11 1 presentation	DB Forum 5	100
		Quiz 7	20
8	3 articles 1 presentation	DB Forum 6	100
		Quiz 8	20
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.