

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

PSCI 501

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PUBLIC POLICY & STATESMANSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course establishes the major facets of the study of political science and explains the relationship between political science and the public policy process. Students will also discuss and apply a Biblical model of statesmanship to this process and political context.

RATIONALE

This course is a required core course in the Master of Science in Political Science program. It provides a broad graduate-level introduction to the study of political science from a Biblical perspective and discusses the comprehensive approach to the facets of the study of political science, including the domestic and international contexts.

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

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Apply a Biblical model of statesmanship to the fields of political science and public policy.
- B. Synthesize political science concepts with various geopolitical contexts.
- C. Evaluate political theory from a Biblical perspective.

- D. Synthesize patterns of behavior and interactions among political stakeholders and institutions.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings, articles, 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. Worldview & Ideology Activities

The student will watch the assigned presentations and complete the activities embedded within them. Each quiz can be completed as many times as necessary to move forward to the next part of the presentation.

- D. Biblical Worldview Exercises

These online, interactive presentations provide an overview of biblical principles of government and criminal justice. The student is allowed an unlimited number of attempts to complete these exercises until the assignment is due in order to maximize full credit. The highest score will be recorded.

- E. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are 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 400–500 words and incorporate ideas and citations from all of the required readings and presentations for the assigned module/week. In addition to the thread, the student must reply to at least 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words and include citations from the required reading and presentations. Each thread and reply must follow current Turabian format.

- F. Institutional Analysis Paper

In this paper, students will discuss and answer the following questions:

1) Is the “state” always the most just political structuring for a particular group of people? and 2) What legislative, judicial, and executive structures and arrangements are the best for ensuring liberty, justice, stability and prosperity (LJSP)? All ideas shared by the student must be supported with sound reason and citations from the required readings, presentations, and additional research. The paper should be 3-5 pages of content in length (not counting the title page or references), double-spaced, and in Turabian format. All required readings and presentations from Modules 1-2 must be cited and 3-5 scholarly sources must be used.

G. Political Systems Analysis Paper

This paper will require students to identify the key factors related to a healthy political system. All ideas shared by the student must be supported with sound reason and citations from the required readings, presentations, and additional research. The paper should be 7-10 pages of content in length (not counting the title page or references), double-spaced, and in Turabian format. All required readings and presentations from Modules 1-4 must be cited, and 12-15 scholarly sources must be used.

H. Political Systems Analysis Briefs (3)

In these briefs, you will evaluate a nation from one of the three categories discussed in Modules 6, 7, and 8 in light of the criteria you identified in your Political Systems Analysis Paper from Module 4. All ideas shared by the student must be supported with sound reason and citations from the required readings, presentations, and additional research. The briefs should be 2-3 pages of content in length (not counting the title page or references), double-spaced, and in Turabian format. All required readings and presentations from Module 6, and any relevant readings and presentations from Modules 1-5 must be cited. Three to five additional sources must be used.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Worldview & Ideology Activities (2)	25
Biblical Worldview Exercises (4 at 25 pts ea)	100
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 75 pts ea)	225
Institutional Analysis Paper	150
Political Systems Analysis Paper	200
Political Systems Analysis Briefs (3 at 100 pts ea)	300

Total 1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PSCI 501

Textbook: Danziger & Smith, *Understanding the Political World* (2015).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Danziger & Smith: chs. 1–4 1 article 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		Worldview & Ideology Activities	25
		Biblical Worldview Exercise 1	25
		DB Forum 1	75
2	Danziger & Smith: chs. 5–7 2 articles	Biblical Worldview Exercise 2	25
		Institutional Analysis Paper	150
3	Danziger & Smith: chs. 8–9 2 articles 1 website	Biblical Worldview Exercise 3	25
		DB Forum 2	75
4	Danziger & Smith: chs. 10–11 3 articles	Biblical Worldview Exercise 4	25
		Political Systems Analysis Paper	200
5	Danziger & Smith: ch. 12 4 articles	DB Forum 3	75
6	Danziger & Smith: ch. 13 4 articles	Political Systems Analysis Brief: Global North	100
7	Danziger & Smith: ch. 14 8 articles	Political Systems Analysis Brief: Global South	100
8	Danziger & Smith: ch. 15 4 articles	Political Systems Analysis Brief: Transitional Developed Countries	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

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