

Introduction to Political Science – FALL 2022

Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (www.BISLA.eu)

Instructor: Samuel Abrahám, PhD

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Tuesday: 13:00-14:30; 14:40-16:10 Group tutorials

Thursday: 10:40-12:10 Lecture-Seminar

Term:	Fall 2022
ECTS credits:	6
Lessons per week:	(2 x 90 min
Language:	English
Instructor:	...
Form of study:	Lecture (90 min) + Seminar: 2 groups (per 90min.)

Prerequisites:

Not required

Course Description:

Historically, political science has been plagued by disagreements over the purposes it serves, the basic questions it should be addressing, and the methods of analysis by which we gain knowledge of politics. Introduction to Political Science should begin to teach students to organize and connect factual information by using their analytical abilities to think critically about politics. In this course, students should learn about the basic nature of political science and the connections between the sub-divisions of the field. The course will introduce students to the basic concepts, institutions, and processes of politics. It will also provide the conceptual meaning and concrete information needed in order to understand and cope with the political events and governmental actions that affect every individual. The beginning of the course will be devoted to the concept of “Liberal Education”.

Class Participation and Exams

50% 7 various written assignments: essays, tests, quizzes (3 short essays (200-500 words). Written feedback for written assignments within 5 days.

30% Active participation, class preparation

10% Presentation

10% Final Exam

The Structure of Sessions & Teaching Methods

Each week there will be 3 (academic) contact hours of teaching divided into 1.5 hour seminar/tutorial. The seminar (Thursdays) will cover the reading material. During the tutorial (Tuesdays) the class will be divided into 2 groups. The focus will be on the topics from assigned material and the topics covered during the seminar as well as student presentations. Student must read all the required text before classes. We will use Moodle for most of the assignments. However, some assignments will be given in class and handed in the class.

If a student is absent for a class, he or she has to find out from other student the material covered in the lecture/seminar as well as does the assignments for the next lecture/seminar. If absent, student must send the assignment before the class to abraham@bisla.sk

Grading System

A – excellent:	100-93%
B – very good:	92-84%
C – good:	83-74%
D – satisfactory:	73-63%
E – sufficient:	62-51%
Fx – fail:	50-0%

Passing a course assumes that a student was not absent at more than 4 lessons.

Expectations in the Classroom

No phones, laptops allowed during classes. Only *Remarkable* writing pad allowed.)

Materials

The basic textbook is

Michael G Roskin, Ed. **Political Science: An Introduction** (2017, 14th Edition.

Leo Strauss: **“What Is Liberal Education?”**

Slavenka Drakulic: **Café Europa Revisited** (2022)

Additional texts:

Martha Nussbaum: **“Skills for Life”**

Stanley Fish: **“The Task of Higher Education”**

Fareed Zakaria: **In Defense of a Liberal Education (Ch.2: “A Brief History of Liberal Education”)**

Isaiah Berlin: “**On the Pursuit of the Ideal**“, NYRB 1988 (In Slovak: K&K 2/1999 www.kritika.sk)

PART I. The Bases of Politics (2-107)

Ch.1 Politics and Political Science

Ch.2 Political ideologies

Ch.3. States

Ch.4 Constitutions and Rights

Ch.5 Regimes.

PART II. Political Attitudes (108-146)

Ch. 6 Political Culture

Ch. 7 Public Opinion

PART III. Political Interactions

Ch 8. Political Communications(147-167)

Last Week of Classes: Exams Week