**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Semester:** Fall 2020

**ECTS Credits:** 6

**Hours/week:** 90 + 90 min

**Language:** English

**Instructor:** Mgr.Dagmar Kusá, PhD

**Meeting**: Mon: (**a**) 9:00-10:30 (**b**)10:40-12:20 Johnson Room

Thurs 10:00 – 11:30 Tatarka Room

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# Prerequisites

* None

# CONTENT

We are going to be reading the first 7 chapters of Roskin’s *Political Science an Introduction*, and writings of influential thinkers from the **postwar** period.

The student will read, write and discuss politics to help form an understanding of the world as it confronts them today.

# ASSIGNMENTS

* 10 short 300 word **summaries**, due on Thursday of most weeks. **(35%)**

1. Strauss “What is Political Philosophy?”
2. Arendt “Ideology and Terror.” (1-13**/**303-315)
3. Arendt “Ideology and Terror.” (13-25**/**315-327)
4. Schmitt *or* Marx
5. Oliver Wendell Holmes/*Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969)
6. Leo Strauss on Liberal Democracy
7. Fukuyama on Regime
8. Hannah Arendt on Totalitarianism
9. Leo Strauss “The Three Waves of Modernity”
10. Alinksy *or* Heidegger

* Two term papers, 1,000-1,500 words. **(50%)**
* Attendance and Participation **(15%)**

Timeliness is of essence in this course.

Assignments have to be uploaded via Google Classroom by the due date. Late submissions will incur grade penalty.

Within 24 hours -10%,

1 to 3 days - 20%

4 to 7 days - 50%

More than a week late - 0%

# Grading scale

A – 100-93%,   
B – 92-84%,   
C – 83-74%,   
D – 73-63%,   
E – 62-51%,   
Fx – 50-0%.

**Four or more absences result automatically in Fx.**

Regular attendance of all classes is of crucial importance in this course. Much of the explanation and implementation of what we learn towards your research project will take place in the seminars and skipping them will have impact on the quality of your research proposal. As per BISLA policy, four absences are permitted during the semester (these are to be reserved for cases of illness or family emergency). Any more absences result in failing the course. Do inform me prior to missing a class.

During this semester, it is essential that we remain safe. Thus, you are expected to stay at home and inform me when you have a raised temperature, feel short of breath, exhausted, experience upset stomach, etc. Contact the NCIZ hotline to arrange for testing. Check <https://korona.gov.sk/en/> for latest information and contact numbers.

# Plagiarism policy

**Plagiarism will automatically result in an Fx and may be subject to disciplinary proceeding and penalties stipulated in Disciplinary Code (up to expulsion).**

All assignments at BISLA should be: (a) based on *your* reading of the sources, (b) based on *your analysis* of the sources, and (c) written by you. All used sources have to be properly referenced in the text as well as in the bibliography of your papers. You may also reference lectures and class discussions—there is a way to reference everything.

**Definition of plagiarism**: If you use a statement, argument or idea from someone without giving them credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. You can avoid plagiarism by citing your source(s).

You must cite a source in two cases: first, whenever you are using the exact wording of the source (in this case, enclose the words in quotation marks; if you add words to the quotation, use square brackets) and, second, whenever you are summarizing or paraphrasing a statement, argument, idea or narrative from the source. If you do not do this, you are guilty of plagiarism. BISLA is using an APA style of referencing—you will find an APA manual on your Google Classroom page. Also, you can consult OWL Purdue Writing lab online or the APA blog for excellent tips and guidance.

**APA formatting and style guide**: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html>

# Class Schedule

**September**

Week 1:

14: Introduction to Course: Why Politics?

* Reading: Fukuyama, *The End of History and The Last Man*, chapter 15.

17: Schools of Political science

* Reading: Read pages 16-26 in Roskin

Week 2:

21: Political Philosophy

* Reading: What is Political Philosophy (*WIPP*) pp. 9-18

24: Fact and Values

* Reading: *WIPP* 18-27
* Turn in short paper **#1**

**October**

Week 3:

28: Ideology

* Reading: Roskin 31-42

1: Ideology

* Reading: Hannah Arendt “Ideology and Terror.” (1-13**/**303-315)
* Turn in short paper **#2**

Week 4:

5: Ideology

* Reading Arendt (13-25**/**315-327)

8: States

* Roskin (50-60)
* Turn in short paper **#3**

Week 5:

12: States

* Carl Schmitt *Concept of the Political*, chapters 1 & 4: (pp. 19-25 & 37-45)

15: Turning Away from Politics

* Reading: *The Communist Manifesto*, sections I & II (pp. 14-27)
* Turn in short paper **#4**.

Week 6:

19: Constitutions and Civil Rights

* Reading: Roskin, 72-77

22: Civil Rights

* Reading: United States Supreme Court, *Selections on Freedom of Speech*.
* Turn in short paper **#5**.

Week 7:

26: Civil Rights

* Reading: Rawls, selections from *A Theory of Justice* (on the Original Position)
* Reading: United States Supreme Court, *Selections on “Privacy*”

29: Liberal Democracy vs. Totalitarianism

* Reading: Leo Strauss, *selections* from 2 lectures: “Why We Remain Jews” and “German Nihilism.”
* **No short paper due, work on mid-term paper**.

**November**

Week 8: Reading Week

Week 9:

9: Regimes

* Reading: Roskin 87-97
* **Turn in mid-term paper.**

12: Regimes

* Fukuyama, *End of History and The Last Man*, chapter 5.
* Turn in short paper **#6**.

Week 10:

16: Regimes

* Fukuyama, *End of History and The Last Man*, chapter 5.

19: Totalitarianism

* Reading: Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (TBD)
* Turn in short paper **#7**.

Week 11:

23: Totalitarianism

* Reading: Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (TBD)

26: The Movement of Modernity

* Reading: Leo Strauss, “The Three Waves of Modernity,” (81-90)
* Turn in short paper **#8**.

**December**

Week 12:

30: The Movement of Modernity

* Reading: Leo Strauss, “The Three Waves of Modernity,” (90-98)

3: Political Culture (Decline)

* Reading: Roskin, 110-122.
* Turn in short paper **#9**.

Week 13:

7: Dissatisfied Leftist

* Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*, Prologue

10: Dissatisfied Rightist

* Heidegger, *Intro to Metaphysics*, TBD
* Turn in short paper **#10**.

Week 14:

14: Scientific Attempts at Understanding the Rifts

* Roskin, 136-145

17: Wrap-up, discussion of the political history of Christmas in the United States.

* **Turn in Final Paper**

# Class Structure

You are going to be given a textbook in .pdf form. This book is going to form a sort of common sense guide to specific political themes. We are going to begin each theme with the textbook. For this, you are to read the assignment beforehand: *but you are encouraged to be quick about it*. Familiarize yourself with what Roskin is talking about and leave it at that. I will bring to class specific quotations from the textbook, and questions stemming from those quotations, for us to discuss.

When it comes to the other reading assignments, these will be printed out for you a week in advance and brought to class by me. You will take them home with you to do the assignment, and bring them back to class on the assigned day for discussion. This, anyway, will be the procedure until the Reader is produced.

In your short papers, I want you to put what you think the author is saying. You aren’t quoting the text; you are putting the argument in your own words. If it helps you to do so, use examples: pick a situation and explain how the author sees it. Say you are on short paper #5, about Freedom of Speech. You can think up an example of free speech or a restriction on free speech and explain how Holmes would have the government act. You can also disagree with an author, but you never disagree (or agree) with someone until you understand them. So you will always have to try to summarize what they themselves think.