

Course Title	Introduction to Political Science		Instructor(s)	Rui Saraiva
			E-mail	rsaraiva@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	Wednesdays 14:00~17:00
Track	Global liberal arts		Mode of Instruction	Single
Credits	2		Allocated Year	1 st year, Fall
Active Learning	2.3. Presentations, 4.1. Interactive lectures, 4.3. Free discussions, 4.4. Case studies, 4.8. Informal debates, 4.9. Group work on questions, 4.10. Think-pair-share and Think-group-share.		Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	This course presents an introduction to the basic conceptual and theoretical tools for research and analysis in the field of politics. To understand the core concepts used by political scientists and political theorists, we will be addressing a broad range of issues that cover the nature of politics and the structures of authority and power within political systems. During this course, the students will also explore issues related with the rights and responsibilities in contemporary representative democracies, as well as the diversity of different contemporary political systems and ideas in a regional and global context.			
Course Objectives	The goal of this course is to give students grounding in the basic tools of political science so that they can develop the ability to critically examine the political phenomena that structure contemporary societies. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand the key concepts, methods, and theories related to the field of politics.			
Prerequisite				
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework	
	1	Introduction - What is political science?	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	2	The State (1) Institutionalized power, effective, weak, and failed states	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	3	The State (2) Federalism and unitary governments	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	4	Constitutions and rights	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	5	Political Parties	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	6	Interest Groups	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	7	Review and Assessment	Midterm Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points	
	8	Political Ideologies (1) Liberalism, conservatism & nationalism	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	9	Political Ideologies (2) Socialism & communism	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	10	Political Regimes (1) Democracy	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
11	Political Regimes (2) Dictatorships	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.		

	12	Political Attitudes Political culture and public opinion	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	13	Political Communication Media and politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	14	Political Systems in the 21st century The impact of the digital revolution and AI	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	15	Final Review	Final Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points
Grading	In-Class participation: 20% Assignments and presentations: 20% Mid-term examination: 30% Final examination: 30%		
Textbooks	Students will be asked to read sections of the book listed in the reference section. Other relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.		
References	Roskin, Michael G., R. L. (Cord.); Medeiros, J. A. and Jones, W. S. 2017. Political Science: An Introduction, Longman: Pearson Education International.		
NOTES	To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend on completing the readings before class. Students are expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class. A two-hour preparation and review period is required for each class.		