



## Introduction to Political Science

Syllabus for POL 102 (Spring 2007)

Ole J. Forsberg, Ph.D.

*University of Tennessee*

Office Location:	McClung Tower 1013	POL102-001:	12:20 – 1:10pm MWF
Office Phone:	(865) 974-2261		HSS 111
Office Hours:	1:30 – 3:00pm MWF	POL102-013:	3:35 – 4:25pm MWF
Instructor Email:	oforsber@utk.edu		HSS 114

### Course Description

In the field of Political Science, there are no fewer than six subfields: American Political System, American Law, Normative Theory, Methodology, International Relations, and Comparative Politics. Where POL101 covered the first two subfields, POL102 covers the remaining.

The underlying theme of this year's course is the search for Utopia. As a result, two major external readings are assigned: *The Communist Manifesto* and *Ecotopia*. Both demonstrate recurring themes in utopian literature.

### Primary Texts

The *required* books for this course:

Grigsby, Ellen. 2005. *Analyzing Politics*, 3rd edn. Belmont, CA: Thomson–Wadsworth.

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1998 [1848]. *The Communist Manifesto*. New York: Signet Classic.

Callenbach, Ernest. 1990. *Ecotopia*. New York: Bantam.

The *recommended* books are:

American Political Science Association. 2001. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*, 4th edn. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon– Longman.

University of Chicago. 2003. *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edn. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

All three required books should be available from the UT Bookstore and from neighboring bookstores. All three will be used extensively in the class, so it would behoove you to get them. As *The Communist Manifesto* is old enough to be in the public domain, there are online sites that allow you to download the entire text. The strength of doing this is that it is slightly cheaper. The weakness is that all page number references I make are based on the book sold in the bookstore.

The Style Manual is completely optional. It appears as though the APSA is readying itself to publish an updated edition. As such, the bookstore has limited copies of the second edition. In

lieu of having you purchase the entire style manual, I have distilled the necessary portions into a document called *APSA References*, accessible from the course website. This document provides examples of reference lists so that you format them correctly.

The other two recommended books are important if you plan to learn to write properly.

Other readings will be assigned as necessary and available by link on the class web site, in the eReserve section of the library's website, or in the reserve section of the library. If you are unable to access any of the readings, please alert me as soon as possible. In general, notifying me the day before the reading is due is too late.

## **Class Policies and Expectations**

### *Taking Notes*

Note taking is an essential part of any college course, especially any course that is introductory in nature. Not only does the act of taking notes reinforce the material in question (it is not merely read and heard, but physically reproduced), it creates a record essential to preparation for quizzes and exams. If you are forced by circumstance to miss class, you will be expected to catch up on all missed notes. Make friends in the class; they will be there for you if you miss a day.

### *Attendance*

Attendance will be checked daily, one way or another. As participation is such a large part of your grade, it is very important that you show up for class and participate. Your participation indicates that you have read the assignment, applied it, and have grappled with some of the more obvious themes. I strongly urge you to come to class with deep questions on the readings.

### *Conduct*

All students are at all times expected to be attentive, to take part in class discussions, and above all else to be courteous and sensitive towards their fellow students. Impropriety will not be tolerated. Further, emotionally charged subject material may be dealt with in this course (ethical, religious, political, etc.); such material requires maturity and openness to views which may conflict with one's own.

### *Writing*

All assignments need to follow the style sheet for this class. All writings reflect you and your ability (thus, plagiarism will be strongly punished). Make sure that *you* are satisfied with your finished product. Your grade depends upon how well you write.

The University of Tennessee does have a Writing Center located in the Humanities building. If you are unsure about your abilities, please make extensive use of it.

### *Disabilities*

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, contact the Office of Disability Services in 2227 Dunford Hall. Their phone number is (865) 974-6087. Also, as soon as is reasonable, inform me of their response.

### *Athletics*

Notify me as soon as possible if there is a conflict between an athletic performance and a class requirement. If notice is not made in a timely manner, no adjustments will be made. As an athletic calendar already exists, such notice should be forthcoming within the first week of classes. In any case, last-minute notification will not be accepted. It is your responsibility. Club athletics do not count as excused absences.

### *Cheating, Plagiarism, & Academic Dishonesty*

Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty will *at least* result in an automatic failure of the course (if not expulsion from the university) and will be dealt with according to those rules outlined in Hilltopics (pages 11, 12, 14, and 41 in the 2006/07 version). If you have yet to read the relevant sections on plagiarism, I strongly urge you to read them now. In part, the relevant section on page 11 reads:

**Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University.**

### *Making-up Quizzes and Exams*

Quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances. If you miss a test, you must speak to me on the day of return to arrange for a time and place to take the make-up test. If you fail to do this, you may receive a zero for the test. The make-up test may be different than the original test.

### *Preparation and Participation*

Welcome to college. You are expected to have not only done the homework, but also all of the readings. Furthermore, you are to have thought about the readings. While you do get some points merely for being there, you can only get full points for the day if you contribute to the discussion. This contribution can, most assuredly, consist of questions you have of the readings. This contribution can also consist of you answering my questions thoughtfully when they are posed during the class.

The online participation grades, for both *The Communist Manifesto* and *Ecotopia*, consist of your postings to the Blackboard site prior to the discussion board closing dates. Those postings are evaluated in terms of both quality and quantity. A quality posting will show depth of thought about the question and the other postings about the question.

The participation grades for Tuna Wars will be two points for each annual report you submit, for a possible total of 50 points if your state survives all 25 years and submits a report each of those years.

## Evaluation

The following is how I calculate your semester grade.

<b>Written Assignments</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>30%</b>
Analysis I	20	January 29	
Analysis II	20	February 21	
Analysis III	20	March 5	
Analysis IIII	20	April 9	
Scavenger Hunt	20	January 12	
Political Leanings	20	February 9	
The Manifesto Analysis	20	February 16	
Tuna Wars Analysis	20	April 27	
Light Paper	40	April 27	
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>30%</b>
Attendance	50		
Communist Manifesto (Online)	50		
Ecotopia (Online)	50		
Tuna Wars	50		
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>67</b>		<b>10%</b>
Current Events Quizzes, Unscheduled Quizzes, Oral Quizzes			
The best and worst quiz grade will be dropped, and the remaining grades will be averaged for the total quiz grade.			
<b>Exams</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>30%</b>
First Exam	100	February 23	
Final Exam	100		
		102-001: 12:30–14:30, Thursday, May 3	
		102-013: 17:00–19:00, Wednesday, May 2	

## Grades

Grade reports will be emailed to your school email account at intervals throughout the semester.

Your final letter grade will be based on the following percentage scale:

90 – 100%	A		
80 – 88%	B	88 – 90%	B+
70 – 78%	C	78 – 80%	C+
60 – 70%	D		

You are responsible for keeping track of your grades and ensuring that what I have emailed is correct.

## Brief Course Outline of Topics

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Utopias I: The Communist Manifesto                | January 10 – 22        |
| a. What is ‘The Spectre’?                         |                        |
| b. Marx and Capitalism                            |                        |
| c. Globalization: Then and Now                    |                        |
| d. Class and Capital                              |                        |
| e. Ten Major Points of Communism                  |                        |
| What is Political Science?                        | January 26 – 31        |
| a. Nomenclature                                   |                        |
| b. Scientific Method                              |                        |
| c. Behavioralism                                  |                        |
| Normative Theory                                  | February 2 – 21        |
| a. Purpose of the State                           |                        |
| b. Equality                                       |                        |
| c. Freedom  |                        |
| d. Liberalism                                     |                        |
| e. Conservatism                                   |                        |
| f. The State of Nature                            |                        |
| g. Some Newer ‘-isms’                             |                        |
| Comparative Politics                              | February 28 – March 28 |
| a. Five Aspects of Democracy                      |                        |
| b. Structure Functionalism                        |                        |
| c. Interest Groups                                |                        |
| d. Political Parties                              |                        |
| e. Elections                                      |                        |
| f. Electoral Systems                              |                        |
| g. State Organization                             |                        |
| International Relations                           | March 30 – April 18    |
| a. Realism  |                        |
| b. Liberalism                                     |                        |
| c. Cultural Effects                               |                        |
| d. Sovereignty                                    |                        |
| e. International Law and Human Rights             |                        |
| f. Conflict, Security, and the Prisoners’ Dilemma |                        |
| g. War and Just War                               |                        |
| h. Terrorism                                      |                        |
| Utopias II: Ecotopia                              | April 20 – 25          |
| a. Environmentalism and Capitalism                |                        |
| b. The Promise of Capitalism                      |                        |
| c. Utopia   |                        |

## **End Matter**

### *Changes and Supremacy*

Should it become necessary to change the syllabus, an announcement in class will be made that the new syllabus is posted on the class web site. In the event of a discrepancy between this printed syllabus and the website's syllabus, the website will take precedence.

### *Class Website*

All classroom documents can be found at the classroom website. This website will also contain supplemental notes and documents. Anything posted to the website will be assumed read by every member of the class. Its address is: <http://web.utk.edu/~oforsber/>.