

Making Sense of Government and Politics (SOSC 1309)

Instructor: Sunhee Park

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Class Hours: 10:30-11:50 (Mondays, Wednesdays)

Class: Room 2407

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:10-2:10

Course Description

This class is designed to introduce two main subfields of political science—International Relations (IR) and Comparative Politics—to students. Through learning both theory and history, the sections on International Relations seek to help students develop an analytical perspective on major issues in international security and international political economy. Through learning about various institutions and systems within states, the section on Comparative Politics seeks to help students familiarize themselves with the implications of differences in institutional settings on political outcomes. Throughout the class, students will be exposed to different methodological approaches that are used in studying international relations and comparative politics.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, student should be able to:

1. Explain the main concepts and theories in International Relations and Comparative Politics.
2. Apply those concepts and theories to analyze international and domestic political events.
3. Think analytically and critically about international and domestic political events.

Learning Activities/materials

Lectures, media, presentation, discussion, data

Grading

1. Examination (60%): There will be two exams: one on the International Relations portion (30%) and the other on the Comparative Politics portion (30%). The exams will cover all of the course materials on the respective topic (including the textbook, lecture notes, documentaries, news articles and news clips). The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions.
2. Discussion (10%): In some classes, you will discuss a topic assigned to you prior to the class. You are expected to study the topic before the class.
**The lowest of these discussion scores will be dropped if there is more than one discussion.
3. Presentation and discussion (30%): The details will be determined after the add/drop period.
** Presentation will be held during section 3.
4. Class attendance (extra 5%) and participation (extra 5%): An extra 5 percentage points will be given for perfect attendance after the Add/Drop period. Attendance will be taken on an ad hoc basis. An additional 5 percentage points will be given for students who contribute actively to class discussions.

A+: 97~ ; A: 93~97; A-: 90~93

B+: 87~90; B: 83~87; B-: 80~83

C+: 77~80; C: 73~77; C-:70~73

D: 60~70 ; F: ~60

Course Materials

- Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds (BSO). 2021. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Third International Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson (GFS). 2020. *Introduction to Politics*. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Non-textbook materials or additional materials necessary for class will be uploaded to Canvas.

Notice

- 1) Lecture notes: Lecture notes will be posted to Canvas on the day before class.
** Lecture notes will have minimal information. Students are expected to read the contents in the lecture notes carefully *before the class* and write your own notes *during the class*.
- 2) Cheating and plagiarism: If cheating or plagiarism is detected for any assessments, the student will be given a score of zero on that assessment and will be barred from inputting the course evaluation.
Rule of thumb: To avoid plagiarism, nothing should be copied and pasted unless it is a properly cited quotation.
- 3) Late assignment submission: If an assignment is submitted after the deadline, 3 percentage points will be deducted.
- 4) Additional exams: In principle, there are no additional exams.
- 5) Syllabus: This syllabus lays out the future lesson schedule and lesson policy. The schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If there are any changes, students will be notified in class.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction to Course

- Reading: BSO Introduction & GFS Ch. 1 (pp. 2-5)

Week 2. Main concept of IR and Comparative Politics

- Reading: BSO Ch.2, GFS Ch. 8 (pp. 165-172) & Ch. 16 (pp. 370-373)

Section 1: International Relations Theories

Weeks 2-4(5). Theories of International Relations: (Neo)Realism, (Neo)Liberalism, Marxism

- Reading: BSO Chs. 6-8, Additional Reading
- Documentary

Special Topic 1: State Death***

Game theory, statistical analysis, case study

Section 2: Main Topics in International Relations

Weeks 5-7

Topic 1: WWs, Cold War, International Security, Ukraine-Russian War

- Reading: BSO Chs. 2-4, 12, 14
- Documentary

Topic 2: International Political Economy

- Reading: BSO Chs. 13, 22

Topic 3: International Organizations

- Reading: BSO Chs. 16-17

Discussion1

Week 7 (8)

IR Part Exam

Section3: Main Topics in Comparative Politics

Weeks 8-13

Topic 1: Democracy

- Reading: GFS Chs. 4, 15

Topic 2: Political Regimes

- Reading: GFS Ch. 15

Special Topic 2: Arab Spring***

Data collection, statistical analysis

Discussion2

Topic 3: Elections

- Reading: GFS Ch. 11

Topic 4: Government System

- Reading: GFS Ch. 13

Week 13

Comparative Politics Part Exam