Course Description and Objectives:
This course is an introduction to the study of politics, an important human activity both inside and outside of "government". It aims to familiarize students with fundamental political problems and the principal concepts used to label, study, and debate the meanings of the political world. The course also seeks to enhance student understanding of selected contemporary political issues, especially those connected with global developments; it also aims to engage students in the exercise of critical "political thinking", or inquiry, especially about those problems that seem to persist as parts of a common human experience of politics.

This course is one of YSU's general education courses in the domain of "Societies and Institutions" (SI). As such, it seeks to convey a comparative understanding of Western and non-Western political society, to examine how different ideas, events, and institutions have influenced such societies, and to consider the nature and implications of human "diversity" in various societies for political and social stability, economic development, and political decision-making.

The class is designed as an "open lecture": I will always have a presentation organized around a set of questions and observations (and will at times be asking you questions!), but students are free at any time to raise questions and add their own views; you also have the opportunity at the beginning of each class session to raise any questions or put forward any arguments or observations that you think are important in regard to what has been discussed and/or events taking place in the "real world" of current politics.

Instructor's office, Office Hours, and Phone/Email Numbers:
Office: 429 DeBartolo Hall (NOTE: located in the Sociology & Anthropology Suite, directly across the hall from the main Political Science offices)
Hours: MWF 11:00 to 11:50 AM; and MW (only), 1:00 to 1:50 PMTu(Th), 12:30 to 1:30 PM; all other times by appointment.
NOTE: If I am not in during other non-teaching hours, please leave a message with Mrs. Babinec in the main office, or on my Voicemail (phone), or email me so that I can contact you. Don't hesitate to get hold of me for any problems or questions that you may have—remember that Ph.D. does not mean "mind-reader".
Office Phone: 330-941-3437; Department Phone: 330-941-3436; Email: kileQak@~su.edu
Lepak Home Phone (Sharon, PA): 724-346-5409

Assigned Reading for the Course (books at YSU Bookstore or Campus Book & Supply):
3) Thomas E. Patterson. The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty. Random House/Vintage, 2003 (Freshman Readers Dialog)

We are using the Elwood and Minogue texts for the third time in this course. You are strongly advised to buy both books. Patterson is new and is free to new freshmen. Students should keep up with the weekly reading schedule as indicated in the syllabus. You are responsible for reading AND STUDYING (yes, Virginia, there is a difference!). I DO NOT as a general rule teach directly from the text, but will refer to ideas and problems covered in the reading. Other readings may
be assigned occasionally, and you are responsible for any materials introduced in the classroom. Students are also encouraged to introduce relevant materials in consultation with the instructor. Common online reading assignments will be taken from *The Washington Post Online Service.* This news publication will be introduced at the Maag Library computer classroom very soon during a scheduled class session. Such assignments will be announced on a weekly or biweekly basis; at times students from the class will select these articles for common reading. NOTE: when such WP assignments are announced, you should access these ASAP (there is a 2-week free access period for these articles), and retain a printed copy for classroom and study reference. Contact me if you have any problems dealing with the reading assignments.

Students who wish to explore the internet for class purposes are encouraged to examine *Political Science on the Internet 1999-2000: A Prentice-Hall Guide.* This short pamphlet is available in Room 428 DeBartolo Hall, across from my office. You can also just spend some time surfing the net looking for political websites; your books may refer you to many of these and we will be looking at some of these in class.

**Grades:**
Grades are based on the following:
1) 2 exams (Monday 4 October/25% and Friday 10 December/35%) for 60%
2) 3 quizzes (TBA (SURPRISE! one-day notice) for 30%, equal weight (10%, 10%, 10%) 3)
3) Attendance and participation 10%
OPTIONAL: extra-credit project, described at end of syllabus

Exams consist of short-answer questions, multiple-choice questions, and essay questions. All exam components allow students considerable choice. The final exam (8 Dec) is not cumulative. Quizzes consist of concept-identification and short-answer questions. Classroom lecture and discussion, assigned text reading, and complementary reading may all be the basis for questions that appear on exams and quizzes. No student may take an exam or quiz before the regularly scheduled time, and if you are absent on the day of an exam/quiz, you MUST contact me that day in order to arrange a makeup. Any makeup tests must be completed within one week of the originally scheduled exam/quiz. All tests are graded on a straight incremental ten-point scale (e.g., 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, below 60 = F); I do not "curve".

Your regular attendance has an important bearing on how well you are able to do in this course. I take attendance daily; please inform me if you are ill, have an emergency, or otherwise must contend with circumstances that make it impossible for you to attend class. Participation is encouraged but this may take various forms both inside and outside of the classroom. The most important aspect of this component of your grade is your regular attendance.

NOTE: In the event that any student requests an Incomplete (I) grade for the course, be aware that incompletes must be completed within the following year; after that period, any outstanding I grade will be changed to an F. Also, If a student fails to complete any required component of the course during the term and does not request an I, this will result in an automatic F for the course.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
Please turn off your cell phones while you are in class; if you need to take a call during class please sit near the door so that you may exit and speak in the hallway, not the classroom. Food is not allowed; you may bring something to drink. The point is to be considerate of your fellow students and to support our common concern with maintaining the appropriate level of attention conducive to effective learning.
COURSE SCHEDULE: Topics for Discussion and Reading Assignments

**Week 1-2: 23 August to 3 September**
--Getting organized
--People and Politics: What are "politics" and "political science" about?
--Country, State, Government, and Nation as concepts of order, identity ...and controversy
--Politics, power, and "leadership": Max Weber and Germany after World War I
--Anti-democratic and Democratic Politics
--"Global" politics since World War II and after the "Cold War"--a "globalizing" world?
**READ:**
Minogue: Foreword, Chapters 1, 10, and 11; Elwood: Foreword, Introduction, and Chapter 1; Patterson: Chapter One; Recommended: Max Weber: "The Profession and Vocation of Politics", recommended (portions of this essay available online at: www.as.ysu.edu/rvpolisci/syllabi.htm)

**Week 3-4: 6 to 17 September**
--Time, space, people, economy, and violence... or why politics is unavoidable!
--Greeks, Romans, and Christians, or the politics of the "West"
--Political Geography (space) and Demographics (people)
--Political Economy, local and global
--Political violence and the origins of the state
**READ:**
Minogue: Chapters 2, 3, and 4; Elwood: Chapter 2 and Chapter 6; Patterson: Afterword Weber (sections TBA)

**Week 5-6: 20 September to 1 October**
--Ideas and Beliefs about people, "good government", and politics
--What is human nature? Philosophy, theology, and psychology
--What are ideologies and what role do they play in politics?
--"Pragmatism" and politics
--Economic "liberalism" and the global economy
**READ:**
Minogue: review chapters 2-4 and read Chapter 12
Elwood: Chapters 3

**ALERT: First Examination in class on Monday, 4 October**

**Week 7-8: 5 to 15 October**
--The Rise of the "constitutional state" and modern "democracy"
--State and Society, and "rule of law" politics
--Corporate Economy, Corporations, and the State
--Fiscal policy, monetary policy, regulatory policy, and foreign economic policy
**READ:**
Minogue: Chapters 5 and 6 Elwood: Chapter 4
Elwood: Chapter 4
POLIT 1550/page 4, Lepak

**Week 9-10: 18 to 29 October**
--States, Power Politics, the United Nations, and Global Political Economy
--Balancing Power and the problem of non-state actors
--Global capitalism, rich states, poor states
--Weak states and criminal/terrorist syndicates: Iraq and "WMD"?

**READ:**
Minogue: Chapter 7
Elwood: Chapters 5 and 6

**Week 11: 1 to 5 November --Practical politics in democracy**
--Political Activists and Leadership
--Political organizations: political parties and interest groups
--Forms of democratic "government" and elections
  --parliamentary government vs. presidential government

**READ:**
Minogue: Chapters 8 and 9; Patterson: Chapter Two

**Week 12-14: 8-24 November (Thanksgiving Holiday: 24-25 Nov)**
--The United States, the Bush Administration, and the Electoral Competition of 2004
--Americans and "our" elections: the "message" and the "campaign"
--The world and the elections in the United States

**READ:** Patterson: Chapter Three, Four, and Five; and Appendix

**Week 15: 29 November to 3 December**
--Issues confronting the global spread of "democracy" and "capitalism" --Is "global" democracy possible (or desirable)?
--Political accountability and traditions of local and national government --A "Model" Campaign?

**Patterson and American Elections**
**READ:**
Minogue: Chapter 13; Elwood: Chapter 7; Patterson: Chapter Six

= = = End of regular Classroom sessions= = =

**Second Exam: Friday, 10 December, from 8:00 to 10:00 AM in the classroom. This exam will be based on material covered since the time of the first exam.**
Extra-Credit Option:

Students desiring extra credit may submit one project in the form of a book review, personal interview, current events essay, or web-site analysis. All project options involve formal writing; no project should be longer than four typed, double-spaced pages, nor shorter than three. Only one project per student is allowed. Consider the following:

a) For book reviews, any non-fictional or fictional account of human life that deals with political problems is appropriate; students should check their selection of a book with me. The review should include a general summary of the arguments or plot of the book and some kind of judgment of the quality of the work. NOTE: Students may not submit required reviews written on books that have been assigned in other concurrent classes; you may review a required book from another class where appropriate, but only where a review was not a part of the course requirements.

b) Personal interviews may be conducted with any public official, officer of a non-profit public issue organization, practicing lawyer, teacher, or any other person of note as far as politics is concerned. A narrative summary or transcript of your interview and a brief letter of acknowledgement and verification from the person you interviewed should be submitted. Consult with me on the kind of questions you might consider asking.

c) A current events essay is a narrative summary of at least four articles taken from current journalistic sources (major newspapers/newsmagazines, on-line services). You should select articles that all basically focus on the same problem or topic. Your essay has to offer an integrated summary of the articles you read along with your own view of the problem; the essay must be accompanied by copies of all articles selected.

d) A web-site analysis consists of a descriptive report of at least four internet websites devoted to politics or political organizations. Sites should be minimally evaluated as to their visual attractiveness, timeliness of their content, and the objectivity of the material presented. A key question to consider is: what is this website NOT telling me that would be important to know about? Can you communicate with the website and do you get substantive responses? Check your selection of websites with me.

The acceptability of your project is based essentially on its readability and competent composition (remember to PROOFREAD your finished work!). I use such projects to help improve your weakest exam score by as much as fifty percent. You may use this option to strengthen a weak exam score or to ensure a good or excellent grade. Projects may be submitted as late as the day of the final exam. Consult with me later in the term should you wish to submit something like this, or if you wish to discuss an alternative type of project.

AGAIN: Please feel free to see me at any time about any problems you may be experiencing in the course; I can't read your minds. Thanks. KJL