

Political Science 1

Houston Academy for International Studies, Rm. 111

Basic Class Information

Contact Information

Teacher: Avis Rodriguez

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Tutorials: Monday afternoons 3:30 to 5:00 PM; Lunch **by appointment**

Course Description

Houston Academy for International Studies (HAIS) is a magnet school that believes in developing engaged global citizens. Part of being an active citizen in our growing world is being knowledgeable about the many different cultures, governmental systems, and organizations that work together. Political Science aims to educate students on the different political theories, and governmental systems that govern the world. Furthermore, students should be able to utilize that knowledge in simulations, MUN Conferences, and real-world situations to become global advocates for themselves and others.

Course Goals

Students who complete this course successfully will:

- Be exposed to new ideas and engage in critical thinking around those ideas;
- Connect political theory to real-world systems;
- Recognize the influence of society on governmental systems;
- Develop close-reading and discussion protocols.
- Be halfway ready to take the AP Comparative Government Exam

Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment

- #2 pencil
- Notebook
- Blue or black pen
- Planner
- Charged Laptop (Laptops are used **EVERYDAY** for assignments, research, and paper construction; a dead laptop is **NOT** an excuse for missing assignments or lack-of-participation)

Course Grading

Cycle Grade Calculation

Formative Assessments: 50% of grade

Formative Assessments generally assess ONE skill or concept. Students will complete a variety of assignments that may include Statecraft assignments, research, paper checkpoints, reading notes quizzes, topic quizzes, exit tickets, questions of the day, Kahoots, EdPuzzle lectures, article annotations, etc. Good rule of thumb: if it is due by the next period, it is a Formative Assessment.

Summative Assessments: 40% of grade

Summative Assessments generally assess MULTIPLE skills or concepts. For this course this is mainly done through major events and written submissions.

Major Events: Each cycle students will have at least one presentation, simulation, or other project in relation to the unit. These major events could include a statistical analysis project, media product creation, United Nation Simulation, Philosophy presentation, etc.

Written Products: Each cycle students will create at least one piece of written work (either a timed essay, position paper, country profile, media analysis, etc.). Written submissions are submissions that students had **more than one class period** to complete.

Participation: 10% of grade

It is expected that students participate in class discussions and lectures. As such, participation in structured discussions, philosophical chairs, asking/answering questions, will be counted as 10% of the student's overall grade each cycle. This also includes participating in class through attending live class meetings and submitting assignments on time.

Retakes/Resubmissions

Formative Assessments

Students can resubmit assignments in this category for a higher grade. However, this must be done **at least ONE WEEK before the end of the cycle** (unless stated otherwise by Ms. Rodriguez) in which the written work is a grade (i.e. Resubmissions for the 1st Cycle must be submitted by Oct. 9th).

Simulations

Due to the nature of simulations being collaborative, simulation grades cannot be changed nor be re-taken. However, students are able to schedule an appointment with Ms. Rodriguez during tutorials to learn how they could improve in the next simulation.

Written Submissions

Once written work is graded, a student may attend tutorials with Ms. Rodriguez for in-person feedback and revise the submission at that time to receive a higher grade. However, this must be done **at least ONE WEEK**

before the end of the cycle (unless stated otherwise by Ms. Rodriguez) in which the written work is a grade (i.e. Resubmissions for the 1st Cycle must be submitted by Oct. 9th).

Final Exams

To Be Determined. An addendum to the syllabus will be added soon discussing expectations for the Final Exams.

Grade Scale

The following grade scale will be used for each cycle and to determine GPA points AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. A student's GPA is determined by the **SEMESTER AVERAGE**, **NOT** the cycle average. Furthermore, Principles of Government is an **ON-LEVEL** class, therefore it follows the **4.0 GPA scale**

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Semester Average</i>	<i>GPA Points</i>
A	89.5 - 100	4.0
B	79.5 - 89.4	3.0
C	74.5 - 79.4	2.0
D	69.5 – 74.4	1.0
F	< 69.5	0.0

Course Policies and Information for Students

Tutorials

Tutorials are offered **every Monday** afternoon from 3:30 to 5:00 PM and **lunch by appointment**. These tutorials are meant to assist students that are struggling in class or give groups extra time to meet and work on upcoming assignments. They are **not** an opportunity for students to come and hang out on campus. If you wish to attend tutorials make sure to arrive with questions or a set agenda.

Other afternoon and lunch tutorials are available upon request.

Morning tutorials **are not** available.

Inclusive Learning Environment Statement

The best learning environment—whether in the classroom, studio, laboratory, or fieldwork site—is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. At Houston Academy for International Studies, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive atmosphere, in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others. Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a climate of intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal backgrounds, abilities, and experiences, although instructors bear primary responsibility for its maintenance.

A range of resources is available to those who perceive a learning environment as lacking inclusivity, as defined in the preceding paragraph. If possible, we encourage students to speak directly with their instructor about any suggestions or concerns they have regarding a particular instructional space or situation. Alternatively, students may bring concerns to another trusted advisor or administrator (such as an academic advisor, mentor, department chair, or dean).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be in the classroom for 90% of the instructional time or else they will receive an **NG** on their transcript, will not receive credit for the course, and will have an “F” calculated for their GPA that semester. This translates to a student **missing less than 4 classes**. Below is the attendance policy for students either virtually or in-person

Virtual Learning

However, this looks different while we are virtually learning. A student can be marked **present** for the class one-of-two ways:

1. Student attends and participates in the synchronous class meeting. This is the simplest way to be marked present for class and the method that is recommended. Synchronous class meetings are only 30 minutes twice a week and 15 minutes on Fridays.
2. Student completes the **Question of the Day** assignment in their **OneNote by 11:59 PM** the day of class and **marks the task “Completed” on the Hub**.

If one of those two options is not completed the student will be marked absent for the class that day.

In-Person Learning

Student must attend class to be marked present when we are learning in-person. However, some students will also be contending with HCC courses that may require them to travel to and from HCC campus. As such, students will be accepted into the classroom 10 minutes late and be allowed to leave 10 minutes early with no penalty **if they can provide proof** they are coming from or going to an HCC course. Students arriving more than 10 minutes to class will be marked tardy (unless they have communicated that day about an extenuating circumstance). Students arriving to class more than 25 minutes late to class will be marked absent.

Late Work Policy

An assignment is late if it is not turned in by the **assigned due date/time**.

Penalties

- Assignment turned in late **within seven days (one week)** will result in a **late penalty of 20%** (i.e. a maximum score of 80%).
- Assignments turned in **more than one week late** will be accepted up until **one week prior to the end of the grading cycle**, but result in a **late penalty of 30%** (i.e. a maximum score of 70%).
- Missing assignments will be designated in HISD Connect with a marker and receive a grade of a 50.

Submissions

- Once the late/missing assignment has been completed in the proper location the student must **EMAIL Ms. Rodriguez** to have the assignment graded. The email should include the **student's name, class period, and name of the assignment(s)** that are being submitted for late consideration.
- Any assignments that are completed, but the student has **not emailed** about will **NOT** be graded.
- Assignments **WILL NOT** be accepted late within the last week of the cycle.

Students may **request** an extension with no late penalty **before** an assignment is due by emailing Ms. Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez will determine whether or not such a request is granted on a case-by-case basis considering the circumstances of the request, and the frequency of a student's request. **Extensions will not be granted after the deadline has passed.**

Policies on Make-Up Exams or Quizzes

If a student is absent the day an assignment is due it is expected that the student will **submit the assignment properly** or communicate why the assignment cannot be submitted properly. If the preceding actions are not taken the Late Work policy will go into effect.

If a student is absent the day of a test or a quiz it is their responsibility to schedule a make-up time with Ms. Rodriguez as soon as possible. If a test or quiz has not been rescheduled within a week of the students' return the student will receive a **50**.

Technology Policies:

Technology is required for this course. However, if a student is caught utilizing technology in a manner that is not conducive to nor meant for instructional purposes the student will face consequences outlined in the classroom expectations.

Ethics/Violations of Academic Integrity:

Ethical behavior is an essential component of learning and scholarship. Students are expected to understand, and adhere to, the school's academic integrity policy. Penalties for violating the policy can include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or other penalties as determined by the school. If you have any doubts about what constitutes a violation of the Academic Integrity policy, or any other issue related to academic integrity, please ask your teacher.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus throughout the year.