# Fall 2024
# PS1005 <u>Political Science I</u>

Class Information:

- Time: Wednesdays, 09:10-12:10

- Place: Room 303 Social Sciences Building

- Course Website: `https://cool.ntu.edu.tw/courses/40753`

Instructor:

- Name: **Hans H. Tung** (hanstung@ntu.edu.tw)

- Office Hours: By Appointment.

- Office: Room 745, Social Sciences Building

*"Man is by nature a political animal."*

~ Aristotle, *Politics*

As Aristotle famously stated more than two thousand years ago, "politics," despite its conceptual evolution in the history of ideas, has always been an essential part of human lives. For Aristotle, one's political life, as opposed to other social activities, is the only way through which he or she can fulfill his or her true human nature. In modern civilizations, however, while Aristotle's teleological understanding of politics might have lost its currency, what is unchanged today is that politics never leaves us and every society still counts on it for achieving all kinds of collective goals. "Political Science," therefore, is first and foremost an intellectual endeavor to understand and explicate everything taking place in the political arena with which we all inescpbaly live.

# 1 Course Design and Objectives

**Political Science I** is the first part of a one-year course series for introducing undergraduate students to basic concepts and theories political scientists have developed for explaining politics, both domestically and internationally. Pedagogically, this introductory course sets three major objectives for students:

1. Learn *how* political scientists study and explain political phenomena (methodologies)

2. Know *what* kind of concepts and theories political scientists come up with for answering interesting puzzles in our political world (substance)

3. Understand *when* and *where* political scientists apply their analytic frameworks (contexts)

The course not only helps students navigate existing theoretical perspectives on how politics can be analyzed, but also contextualizes them in real-world cases. The ultimate goal is to make students able to think independently and formulate their own views.

# 2 Grading

- Mid-Term (30%)

- Final (60%)

- Class Participation (10%)

# 3 Textbook (On reserve at the Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library)

**PSI** Roskin, Michael G., et al. 2016. *Political Science: An Introduction.* (14th Edition). Essex, England: Pearson.

# 4 Class Schedule and Reading List

## Week 1 September 04, 2024 Introduction

**Note: Due to the scheduling conflict with the Annual Meeting of American Political Science Association, we will meet online for the first week.**

## Part I: Methodology

## Week 2 September 11, 2024 Is Political Science a *Science*?

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 1.

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics.* 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE/CQ Press. Chapter 2 What Is Science?

- Morgan, Stephen L. and Christopher Winship. 2007. *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference: Methods and Principles for Social Research.* Cambridge; New York : Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 Introduction.

## Week 3 September 18, 2024 Causality and Social Sciences

Readings:

- Morgan, Stephen L. and Christopher Winship. 2007. *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference: Methods and Principles for Social Research.* Cambridge; New York : Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 Introduction.

## Week 4 September 25, 2024 Theory, Empirical Research and Social Sciences

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 1.

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE/CQ Press. Chapter 2 What Is Science?

- Parsons, Craig. 2016. *Introduction to Political Science: How to Think for Yourself about Politics*. 1st Edition. Pearson. Chapter 1 Introduction.

## Part II: Fundamentals

## Week 5 October 02, 2024 Power

Readings:

- Brigid C. Harrison. 2016. *Power and Society: An Introduction to the Social Sciences*. 14th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing. Chapter 1 Power, Society, and Social Science.

## Week 6 October 09, 2024 Political Ideologies

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 2.

## Week 7 October 16, 2024 State

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 3.

## Week 8 October 23, 2024 Midterm

## Week 9 October 30, 2024 Political Regimes: Democracies and Dictatorships

- **PSI**: Chapter 5.

## Part III: Demand Side

## Week 10 November 06, 2024 Political Cultures and Public Opinion

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapters 6-7.

## Week 11 November 13, 2024 Guest Lecture: Ai-Men Lau, Social Engagement Team Lead, The Doublethink Lab

Topic to be announced.

## Week 12 November 20, 2024 Political Communications: Traditional Media

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 8.

## Week 13 November 27, 2024 Political Communications: Social Media

Readings:

- Aridor, Guy, Rafael Jiménez-Durán, Ro'ee Levy, and Lena Song. 2024. "The Economics of Social Media." *Journal of Economic Literature* forthcoming.

- Zhuravskaya, Ekaterina, Maria Petrova, and Ruben Enikolopov. 2020. "Political Effects of the Internet and Social Media." *Annual Review of Economics* 12: 415-38.

# Week 14 December 04, 2024 Political Participation: Elections, Interest Groups and Political Parties

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 9-11.

# Week 15 December 11, 2024 Political Participation: Contentious Politics

Readings:

- Parsons, Craig. 2016. *Introduction to Political Science: How to Think for Yourself about Politics*. 1st Edition. Pearson. Chapter 6 Individual Participation and Collective Action.

# Week 16 December 18, 2024 Final Exam