**Miyazaki International College**

**Spring 2020**

**Course Syllabus**

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| Course Title (Credits) | | **SSC103-1: Introduction to Political Science (4 credits)** | |
| Course Designation for TC | | N/A | |
| Time and Location | | Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:40-12:15 | |
| **Content Teacher** | | | |
| Instructor | | Atsushi Yasutomi, Ph.D. | |
| Email address | | ayasutomi@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp | |
| Office/Ext | | MIC 1-328/ Ext. 3769 | |
| Office hours | | (Tuesday afternoons) posted on door | |
| **Language Teacher** | | | |
| Instructor | | Cathrine-Mette Mork | |
| Email address | | cmork@sky-miyazaki-mic.ac.jp | |
| Office/Ext | | MIC 1-303 | |
| Office hours | | Tuesdays 13:00-16:00 | |
| **Course Description** | | | |
| Introduction to Political Science Introduces a variety of approaches to political science and political thinking. The course covers major political issues of contemporary societies at the local, national, and global level and introduces key concepts and themes of the major subfields of political science. Active, co-operative learning methods will be used to think about and understand political science. Pair and group work will be used to help students develop an understanding of course materials and practice the language. Students will share ideas and opinions through games, projects and various tasks in addition to discussion. | | | |
| **Course Goals/Objectives** | | | |
| By the end of the course, students will be able to…  CONTENT   * analyze power, interests, and collective action. * demonstrate political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and political economy orally and through writing.   LANGUAGE   * Employ general and specialist vocabulary necessary to do the above. * Write concise paragraphs that clearly and logically demonstrate understanding and analysis of key concepts covered in the course. * Explain in English (orally) key concepts covered in the course. * Gain confidence in using dictionaries, thesauri, and encyclopedias.   CRITICAL THINKING   * critically analyze key political concepts and the practice of politics based on information presented in the course and through out-of-class research. * Employ basic note-taking and other study skills | | | |
| **Course Schedule** | | | |
| **Session #** | **Topic** | | **Content** |
| 1 | Unit 1 Introduction to the units covered in the course | | Syllabus & Course Introduction  Introduction of students and teachers  Handouts for Unit 1, Lesson 1.  HOMEWORK Lesson 1: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A |
| 2 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 1 *Politics and Interests* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about politics and interest, vocabulary check pair work |
| 3 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 1 *Politics and Interests* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 2: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 1: complete worksheet for submission |
| 4 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 2 *Politics and Power* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about politics and power, vocabulary check pair work |
| 5 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 2 *Politics and Power* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, types of power image match activity  HOMEWORK Lesson 3: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 2: complete worksheet for submission |
| 6 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 3 *Politics and Collective Action* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about political and collective action, vocabulary check pair work |
| 7 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 3 *Politics and Collective Action* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 4: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 3: complete worksheet for submission |
| 8 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 4 *Studying Politics* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about studying politics, vocabulary check pair work |
| 9 | UNIT 1 WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?  Lesson 4 *Studying Politics* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 5: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 4: complete worksheet for submission, do video submission and video reply to at least 3 classmates. |
| 10 | **UNIT 1 Test**  UNIT 2 POLITCAL THEORY  Lessons 5 *Politics as the Good Life* | | TEST  Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about politics as the good life, vocabulary check pair work |
| 11 | UNIT 2 POLITCAL THEORY  Lessons 5 *Politics as the Good Life* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 6: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 5: complete worksheet for submission |
| 12 | UNIT 2 POLITCAL THEORY  Lessons 6 *Classical Types of Government* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about classical types of government, vocabulary check pair work |
| 13 | UNIT 2 POLITCAL THEORY  Lessons 6 *Classical Types of Government* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 7: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 6: complete worksheet for submission |
| 14 | UNIT 2 POLITCAL THEORY  Lessons 7 *The Social Contract* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about the social contract, vocabulary check pair work |
| 15 | UNIT 2 POLITCAL THEORY  Lessons 7 *The Social Contract* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 8: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson7: complete worksheet for submission, do video submission and video reply to at least 3 classmates. |
| 16 | **UNIT 2 Test**  UNIT 3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Lesson 8 *The Development of the Modern State* | | TEST  Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about the development of the modern state, vocabulary check pair work |
| 17 | UNIT 3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Lesson 8 *The Development of the Modern State* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 9: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 8: complete worksheet for submission |
| 18 | UNIT 3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Lesson 9 *Modern Democracy* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about modern democracy, vocabulary check pair work |
| 19 | UNIT 3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Lesson 9 *Modern Democracy* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 10: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 9: complete worksheet for submission |
| 20 | UNIT 3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Lesson 10 *Constitutions* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about constitutions, vocabulary check pair work |
| 21 | UNIT 3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Lesson 10 *Constitutions* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 11: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 10: complete worksheet for submission, do video submission and video reply to at least 3 classmates. |
| 22 | **UNIT 3 Test**  UNIT 4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Lesson 11 *Realism & Anarchy* | | Write test,  Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about realism & anarchy, vocabulary check pair work |
| 23 | UNIT 4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Lesson 11 *Realism & Anarchy* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 12: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 11: complete worksheet for submission |
| 24 | UNIT 4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Lesson 12 *Idealism & International Society* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about idealism & international society, vocabulary check pair work |
| 25 | UNIT 4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Lesson 12 *Idealism & International Society* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 13: 1) do vocabulary section of worksheets 2) read the passage 3) do online Q&A;  Lesson 12: complete worksheet for submission |
| 26 | UNIT 4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Lesson 13 *Globalization* | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about globalization, vocabulary check pair work |
| 27 | UNIT 4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Lesson 13 *Globalization* | | Speaking pair work using new vocabulary, content analysis pair/group work, activities/games when appropriate/ time permitting  HOMEWORK Lesson 14, 15: read the passages, do online Q&A; Lesson 12: complete worksheet for submission, do video submission and video reply to at least 3 classmates. |
| 28 | **UNIT 4 TEST**  UNIT 5 POLITICAL ECONOMY (mini section)  Lesson 14 Democracy & Capitalism  Lesson 15 Governing Capitalism | | TEST  Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about democracy & capitalism; governing capitalism  Project work  HOMEWORK Lesson 16: read the passages, do online Q&A |
| 29 | UNIT 5 POLITICAL ECONOMY (mini section)  Lesson 16 Measuring Development | | Listening to lectures, note-taking, paraphrasing, reading about measuring development  Project work |
| 30 | Review  Project | | Q&A review game  Project (presentations and/or written work) |
| EXAM  WEEK | Final Exam | | Final Exam |
| **Required Materials** | | | |
| Students will not be required to purchase a specific textbook. We will work from a number of handouts to be distributed online. You will need to lined A4 paper for note-taking and a folder or binder to keep them in. It is important for you to keep your course materials organized. All of the handouts that your teachers give you or you download from the course site - including worksheets, readings, and other materials - must be put in your folder or binder together with your notes. At the end of the course you will present a portfolio containing all your lecture notes, lesson materials, and vocabulary notes for part of your Homework assessment.  Every class you are required to bring these things to class.   * + - Course materials (handouts from teacher, etc.)     - Binder (A4, 2-hole) or folder to keep all materials and class notes in     - Lined white paper (A4, 2 holes) + writing implements (pens, pencils)     - Dictionary (one on smart phone is fine)     - Smartphone (if you have one) to access apps and course (you can share if you do not have one) | | | |
| **Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)** | | | |
| Attendance and participation in class are extremely important. Students should attend and be on time for all classes. If you do not attend class or are late for class you will have difficulty following the course content.  All assignments must be handed in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have been sick. All medical absences require a note from your doctor. In short, each class that you are late for or miss will lower your final grade. If you miss a class, first talk with a classmate and then with one of your teachers. | | | |
| **Student Preparation and Review Time** | | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson, and one hour reviewing and doing homework. The nature of these tasks may be different from week to week, but you should always:   * Review all lesson materials. * Study new vocabulary and keep a vocabulary notebook. * Keep an organized folder/binder including all lesson notes and handouts. * Reflect on lesson content and identify difficulties to ask questions about in class. * Reflect on lesson content and draw parallels to current events in Japan and the world. * Consult with one or both of your teachers if you are struggling or have questions to give or feedback to offer. | | | |
| **Grades and Grading** | | | |
| Grades will be determined by:   1. Worksheet homework & online questions 30% 2. Unit tests 30% 3. Final exam 20% 4. Video discussions 10% 5. Project work 10%   Total: 100%  The grading system at MIC is as follows:   * A (Excellent) 90-100% * B (Above average) 80-89% * C (Average) 70-79% * D (Below average) 60-69% * F (Fail) 59% or less | | | |
| **Notes:**  Again, please remember to bring your mobile devices to class as you may be using them to access online materials. You will learn about important apps and URLs you will need to access in class. | | | |

