

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

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The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Arts and Humanities

POLS 698

Separate Comprehensive Examination

0 Credit Hours

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Prerequisite(s): None

Instructor Information

Course Description (Catalog)

The comprehensive final examination is for students in the *Master of Arts in Political Science* program. The "Comprehensive Final Exam" is tailored specifically to each program and must be taken after students have completed 36 hours of study (i.e. during the semester following the final course) and must be successfully completed before the award of a degree.

Course Scope

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a structured and self-paced review of key concepts, theories, and knowledge skill sets in the field of Political Science. Preparation for a Comprehensive Examination, however, is the student's responsibility.

Learning Objectives

A. General Objectives

1. Analyze the fundamental theories and philosophies of government, governance, economy, and civil society and apply them to contemporary political systems.
2. Evaluate the political elements of representative democracy and compare and contrast those elements with other political systems.
3. Assemble and evaluate the appropriate information and data used in the social, economic, foreign affairs and security policy-making realm.

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4. Assess the actors and processes involved in policymaking and evaluate policy implementation outcomes in various sectors to include the social, economic, foreign policy and security policy domains.

B. The American Politics and Government

1. Interpret the philosophical theories of constitutional democracy and federalist principles that form the basis of the U.S. political structure.
2. Analyze the three institutions of government that create and implement federal policy.
3. Assess why the American system of local, state, and federal government and their and its intergovernmental relations is an invitation to struggle.
4. Evaluate the evolution of interest groups in the United States and their various roles assumed in both historical and modern democratic processes.
5. Analyze the perspectives of political parties and their impact on federal, state, and local government.
6. Judge the emerging impact of gender, race, language, ethnic traditions, sexual orientation and moral principles on federal, state, and local government.

C. Comparative Government and Development

1. Evaluate the "national interest" and how it is formulated through a comparative studies approach.
2. Assess the role of culture, politics, economics, the defense establishment, and domestic constraints in decision making and policy making in various political regimes.
3. Analyze the impact of foreign policy on domestic decisions as well as domestic considerations on foreign policy.
4. Critically assess the unique principles, structure, and organization of the major international organizations.
5. Evaluate the role of international organizations in addressing issues of economic development, free and unrestricted trade, capital investment, conflict resolution, threats to international order, terrorism, and war crimes.
6. Assess the economic and political processes in international development; diagnose social issues in international development; appraise the need for sustainable international development.
7. Examine the prospects of governance by international organizations.
8. Evaluate the multidimensional effects of globalization
9. Assess alternatives to current policies in the post-Cold War era and examine their impact on the United States, its allies, regional powers, and the international system.

D. National Security

1. Examine the theory, nature, and causes of war and their relationship to diplomacy and defense policy making from the U.S. perspective.
2. Assess the prioritization of American national interests in the post-Cold War era and the changing threat environment.
3. Assess the policy making environment and the role economic, political, cultural, and organizational factors and intelligence gathering capabilities affect decision-making in the United States.
4. Evaluate the role of the Executive Branch, Congress, the Defense Department, the separate armed services, and defense industries have in the formulation of security policy.

Course Delivery Method

This is a self-paced course that allows the student to review in preparation for a Comprehensive Examinations as a terminal degree requirement.

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Course Materials

Articles, journals, print & media reports, and documentaries assigned throughout the course

Evaluation Procedures

A grade for this course will be based upon the student's performance on the comprehensive examination.

Grading Scale

<u>Grade</u>	<u>GPA / Percent</u>	<u>Description</u>
P	NONE	Pass
PD	NONE	Pass with Distinction
FAIL	NONE	Failed the Exam
I	NONE	Incomplete

Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	Theoretical Construct	Packet 1: Suggested Readings	Forum
2	Democracy	Packet 2: Suggested Readings	Forum
3	Interest Groups	Packet 3: Suggested Readings	Forum
4	Comparative Political Systems	Packet 4: Suggested Readings	Forum
5	Public Policy Process	Packet 5: Suggested Readings	Forum
6	Security issues	Packet 6: Suggested Readings	Forum
7	Take comprehensive exam. You have 6 hours to take the exam.		
8	It must be completed before 2359 on the last day of the course.		

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Library Guide

ONLINE LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & LEARNING RESOURCES

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.

If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.