



Language Institute
Thammasat University
EL 331 English for Political Scientists 2
Course Outline
Semester 1/2020
(Revised 15 August 2020)

Pre-requisite: EL 231 English for Political Scientists 1

Course Description

This course is a contemporary issues-based course focusing on political and social topics and current events in Thailand and internationally. Extending the basic skills provided in EL 231, students have ample practice and guidance in analyzing contextual implications, summarizing ideas from argumentations, and expressing their opinions and solutions to issues that are relevant to their interests, future careers and society at large.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply to new situations a broader knowledge of contemporary political science-related vocabulary and expressions;
2. select and make use of a greater variety of expressions in presenting and defending their opinions, agreeing or disagreeing with others' opinions, and proposing solutions, suggestions and recommendations;
3. explain, rephrase and summarize significant developments in current news, events and issues, and lead a critical discussion of those developments from a personal and political science perspective;
4. identify, analyze and interpret the key elements in a political cartoon; justify their view of the opinion expressed, and create an effective political cartoon of their own;
5. demonstrate an increased confidence and motivation to interact effectively and interactively in an English language setting.

Textbook/Teaching Materials:

The course is expressly designed for undergraduate Political Science students and features instructor-developed material, activities and resources that best address the language needs and interests of the students and match the academic purposes of the Political Science faculty. Classes are based on a learner-centered approach to language teaching in order to increase student involvement in learning activities and to promote inquisitive, independent research among the students. Project-based assignments, integrating the internet and students' individual interests, are designed to accommodate a range of learning styles and preferences.

EL 331 is specifically designed to:

1. provide language instruction, guidance, feedback and learning materials that are relevant, interesting and motivating to the students and appropriate to their level of language proficiency.
2. integrate as much as possible the language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and vocabulary acquisition.
3. apply best language acquisition practices via a learner-centered, learner-autonomous classroom-based curriculum which cultivates critical thinking skills.

Core reading selections, language development material, worksheets and assignments are contained in a course textbook, *The Politics of Persuasion*, available for student purchase at the Language Institute for B100. Supplementary materials are provided by the students themselves through learner-centered activities.

Active Learning Activities:

1. Small group discussions on social/political topics decided by students
2. Analysis and evaluation of issues/events researched and selected by students
3. Creation and presentation of original political cartoons designed by students
4. Peer-assisted reading review activities to enhance engagement and comprehension
5. Peer-reviewed writing activities
5. Interactive exchange of perceptions and perspectives arising from assigned material, student-generated material and “breaking news” topics

Course Evaluation

Attendance and Participation	20 points
Mid-Term Examination	40 points
Final Examination	80 points
Assignments:	
2 Letters to the Editor	10 points
1 Written Editorial	5 points
2 Lead Group Discussions	10 points
1 Political Cartoon Design	5 points
Formative Assessments:	
Bi-weekly (every 6 hours) of student’s progress towards achieving learning outcomes	<u>30 points</u>
	200 points

Attendance Policy

1. Students are required to attend at least 36 class hours (80%) of the total 45 class hours. You cannot be absent more than two classes (6 hours) before the midterm examination and two classes (6 hours) before the final examination.

2. For each “late to class”, **one** point will be deducted. For each unexcused absence **two** points will be deducted. Attendance scores can be reduced for lack of participation despite your physical presence.

Plagiarism Policy

Students of Thammasat University are required to refrain from any kind of plagiarism, i.e. an act of copying other people’s work, such as language, thoughts, or expressions, without crediting the original author(s). Copying any sentences or paragraphs from any sources, e.g. websites, books, etc. and pasting them into your assignments are thus considered cheating, which will result in a mark of “zero” for the assignment or even an “F” grade.

Instructors, Times and Venues:

Classes are held, according to the schedule below, from 10 Aug to 23 Nov 2020.
(15 classes x 3 hours = 45 hours)

Midterm Exam: Saturday, 03 October 2020 **Time:** 14:30-16:30

Final Exam: Friday, 04 December 2020 **Time:** 13:00-16:00

Add/Drop period: 17-21 August 2020

Midterm period: 27 September – 04 October 2020

Drop “W” period: 12 October – 15 November 2020

Sec/Gr	Day	Time	Room	Instructor
810001	Mon	09:30-12:30	SC1066	Asst. Prof. Edward Geerson (C/M/F) edward.g@litu.tu.ac.th
810002	Mon	09:30-12:30	SC1067	Ajarn Matthew Miklas matthew.m@litu.tu.ac.th
820001	Mon	13:30-16:30	SC2009	Asst. Prof. Edward Geerson edward.g@litu.tu.ac.th
820002	Mon	13:30-16:30	SC2010	Ajarn Matthew Miklas matthew.m@litu.tu.ac.th
820003	Mon	13:30-16:30	SC2013	Ajarn Noot Sittitooon nootsittitooon@gmail.com

Tentative Teaching Schedule

EL 331

Semester 1/2020

(Revised 15 August 2020)

Week	Date	Content	Homework
1	10 August	Course Introduction; Outline Review, Buy text Unit 1: pp. 1-8	Unit 1: Self-Study, pp. 9-13
2	17 August	Review Homework: pp. 9-13 Unit 1: p. 13: Discussion and Critical Thinking Unit 2: pp. 15-20	Unit 2: Self-Study, pp. 20-24
3	24 August	Review Homework: pp. 20-24 Unit 2: p. 25: Discussion and Critical Thinking	Writing Assignment # 1 (p. 26): Writing a Letter to the Editor
4	31 August	Submit Writing Assignment #1 Unit 3: pp. 28-36	Unit 3: Self-Study, pp. 36-39
5	07 September	Holiday	
6	14 September	Review Homework: pp. 36-39 Unit 3: p. 40: Discussion and Critical Thinking	Writing Assignment #2 (p. 41): Responding to a Letter to the Editor
7	21 September	Submit Writing Assignment #2 Class discussion of students' letters, issues, opinions and responses; Mid-Term Review	Prepare for Mid-Term Exam
8	Saturday 03 October	Mid-Term Exam, 14:30-16:30	

9	05 October	Unit 4: pp. 44-49	Unit 4: Self-Study, pp. 49-53
10	12 October	Review Homework: pp. 49-53 Unit 4: p. 54: Discussion and Critical Thinking	Unit 5: Read pp. 56-63
11	19 October	Unit 5: pp. 56-69	Unit 5: Self-Study, pp. 69-74
12	26 October	Review Homework: pp. 69-74 Unit 5: p. 75: Discussion and Critical Thinking pp. 76-77: Writing an Editorial	Writing Assignment #3 (pp. 76-77): Writing an Editorial
13	02 November	Submit Writing Assignment: Editorial (NO UNIT 6) Unit 7: pp. 96-108; Activity: pp. 109- 117	Unit 7: Review pp. 96-108 Read and Study pp. 118-120
14	09 November	Unit 8: pp. 126-134 Activity: Critical Analysis, pp. 134-139	Unit 7: p. 124 Prepare “Cartoon Critique”
15	16 November	Units 7-8: pp. 124 and 144 “Cartoon Critique” Presentations	
16	23 November	Final Exam Review Course Wrap-Up and Evaluation/Feedback	Prepare for Final Exam
	Friday 04 December	Final Exam: 13:00-16:00	