



**Language Institute
Thammasat University
EL 331 English for Political Scientists 2
Course Outline
Semester 2/2020**

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. identify, summarize, analyze and interpret the key developments of a current real-world issue, topic or series of events in a selected region, country or topic;
2. demonstrate an ability to think critically, employ problem-solving skills and acquire a deeper knowledge through active exploration of a contemporary challenge or problem
3. lead a critical presentation through structured individual and collaborative work with peers that synthesizes background and newly-acquired knowledge from various areas of learning applied to a political science perspective;
4. employ a broader knowledge and active use of contemporary political science-related vocabulary and expressions through personalized inquiry-based learning;
5. demonstrate an increased confidence and motivation to interact effectively and professionally in an English language setting.

Textbook/Teaching Materials:

The course follows a Project-based Learning approach in which the students have optimal control over the “real-world” learning material they choose to access individually and in groups in order to present individualized assignments and a semester-long research project in collaboration with their peers. The role of the teacher is characterized as a manager, facilitator, resource counsellor and scaffolder for their learning experience. There is no formal textbook.

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 a research-based, semester-long project
4. Peer review of student presentations
5. Self-reflection of the learning process and personal communication skills
5. Interactive exchange of perceptions and perspectives arising student-generated material and current issues, events or topics

Course Evaluation

Assignments (6 x 5 points)	30 points
Vocabulary Journal	10 points
Peer Project Assessment	5 points
Self-Reflection Report	5 points
Formative Language Assessment	10 points
Group Term Project	<u>40 points</u>
	100 points

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend at least 36 class hours (80%) of the total 45 class hours. Student cannot be absent more than three classes (9 hours) during the semester.

Plagiarism Policy

Students of Thammasat University are prohibited from engaging in 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 assignments are thus considered cheating which will result in a mark of "zero" for the assignment or a grade of "F" for the course.

Instructors, Times and Venues:

All classes are held ONLINE on Mondays from 25 January to 17 May 2021.

Add/Drop period: 25-29 January 2021
Midterm period: 10-17 March 2021
Drop "W" period: 24 March-06 May 2021

Students are NOT required to attend physically or online the officially designated exams:

Midterm Exam:	Sunday, 14 March 2021	Time: 14:30-16:30
Final Exam:	Saturday, 22 May 2021	Time: 09:00-12:00

Sec/Gr	Day	Time	Room	Instructor
810001	Mon	09:30-12:30	Online	Asst. Prof. Edward Geerson (C) edward.g@litu.tu.ac.th
810002	Mon	09:30-12:30	Online	Ajarn Matthew Miklas matthew.m@litu.tu.ac.th
820001	Mon	13:30-16:30	Online	Asst. Prof. Edward Geerson edward.g@litu.tu.ac.th
820002	Mon	13:30-16:30	Online	Ajarn Matthew Miklas matthew.m@litu.tu.ac.th

Tentative Teaching Schedule
EL 331
Semester 2/2020

Week	Date	Content	Activities/Materials
1	25 January	Course Introduction and Outline Review Explanation and Set up of course requirements	Course Outline and supplements
2	01 February	Due: Writing Assignment #1 Group Secretary Report I	Based on instructor and/or student-researched material
3	08 February	Project Work	Individual research and collaborative work
4	15 February	Due: Speaking Assignment #1	Based on instructor and/or student-researched material
5	22 February	Project Work Group Secretary Report II	Individual research and collaborative work
6	01 March	Due: Writing Assignment #2	Based on instructor and/or student-researched material
7	08 March	Project Work	Individual research and collaborative work
8	15 March	Mid-Term Week	
9	22 March	Due: Speaking Assignment #2	Based on instructor and/or student-researched material
10	29 March	Project Work Group Secretary Report III	Individual research and collaborative work
11	05 April	Due: Writing Assignment #3	Based on instructor and/or student-researched material
	12 April	Songkran Holiday	
12	19 April	Due: Speaking Assignment #3	Based on instructor and/or student-researched material
13	26 April	Project Work Group Secretary Report IV (Final)	Individual research and collaborative work
14	03 May	Project Presentation Practice: Peer Assessment & Submission	Group presentation and completed student project
	10 May	Ploughing Ceremony Holiday	
15	17 May	Due: 1) Project Presentation and upload 2) Vocabulary Journal 3) Self-Reflection Report	Completed student project and individual work