



Language Institute Thammasat University
Course Syllabus Semester 1/2023
EL 231 English for Political Scientists I

Course Description

Study of current political issues for the development of English. Application of updated political research, publications, media and political texts for English discussions, presentations and reflections. Study of different patterns of technical language used in political science. Practice in describing political concepts, narrating political problems, giving comments on political stances and integrating critical thinking in problem-solving activities

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes (COLO)

Objective 1: Students understand the mechanisms of core concepts and theories in international affairs and extensively apply them to address current global situations.

Outcome 1.1: Describe key contemporary terms and theories through current global phenomena

Outcome 1.2: Review international affairs theories with respect to current global situations

Objective 2: Students make use of collected information to make predictions and suggest political trends to the public.

Outcome 2.1: Summarise pieces of relevant information about a current global issue and make a statement

Outcome 2.2: Deliver political predictions and trends based on information from various sources

Objective 3: Students study different political practices and give comments on their effectiveness under different circumstances.

Outcome 3.1: Discuss strengths and weaknesses of different political practices used in democratic countries

Outcome 3.2: Compare and contrast different political practices with respect to backgrounds of particular areas

Objective 4: Students study problems at the community level and address social movements and their effectiveness.

Outcome 4.1: Narrate local problems and describe the significance of decentralisation

Outcome 4.2: Discuss the integral role of social movements in solving local problems

Objective 5: Students write reports about an issue in public administration using information drawn from graphs/charts and infographics.

Outcome 5.1: Analyse statistical data and write a brief report

Outcome 5.2: Describe infographics

Objective 6: Students apply triangulation to construct arguments and create simple project plans to deal with issues in public administration.

Outcome 6.1: Apply triangulation in order to construct arguments

Outcome 6.2: Outline project plans based on the triangulation of relevant variables

Course Contents

The contents of this course cover various updated political topics in line with the ongoing research projects conducted at Direk Jayanama Research Centre of Thammasat University's Political Science Faculty. With clear focused topics in the three main subfields, namely, politics and government, international relations and public administration, students will be fully exposed to essential knowledge offered in external media of various templates which demand different patterns of language use and information packaging. These include excerpts from book chapters, research articles, videos and official reports published by international organisations. Students will be trained to achieve some technical language skills needed in political science activities ranging from describing political concepts and narrating political problems to giving comments on political stances and proposing triangulated plans to solve problems. Critical thinking is also integrated into learning activities.

Course Materials

A variety of course materials are used. These include academic papers, news articles, analyses, reports and videos which address current issues. They are adapted to fit the objectives of the exercises. Links to the original sources of the materials are provided so that students will be able to explore the entire contents in case they want further knowledge.

Course Evaluation

Student evaluations are based on the following criteria:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
Quizzes	50	A	82 and above
Assignments	50	B+	75 -81
Total	<u>100</u>	B	70 -74
		C+	65 - 69
		C	60 - 64
		D+	55 - 59
		D	50 – 54
		F	49 and below

Instructors

Section/ Group	Day	Time	Room	Instructor
810001	Mon	09:30 - 12:30	SC1017	Asst.Prof.Upsorn Tawilapakul
810002	Mon	09:30 - 12:30	SC1017	Asst.Prof.Upsorn Tawilapakul
820001	Mon	13:30 - 16:30	SC2-210	Asst.Prof.Upsorn Tawilapakul
820002	Mon	13:30 - 16:30	SC2-211	Aj. Phitcharie Koanamsai
820003	Mon	13:30 - 16:30	SC2-212	Aj. David Young

Note: Students enrolled in the course will receive a code to join [a Google Classroom/ MS Teams].

Details of Quizzes and Assignments

Week	Assignment	What to do	What to submit/present
2	Quiz 1 (10 points) COLO: 1.1 SDGs: 4, 16, 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read a short text about a concept in international affairs and answer questions (5 points) - Write a short paragraph of approx. 200 words to describe a concept in international affairs through a current phenomenon (5 points) 	In-class quiz
3	Quiz 2 (15 points) COLO: 1.2 SDGs: 4, 16, 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read a review about a concept in international affairs and answer questions (5 points) - Write a review of approx. 200 words about a given political concept (10 points) 	In-class quiz
4	Assignment 1 (10 points) Outcomes 2.1, 2.2 SDGs: 4, 16, 17	Collect essential information about a global or regional situation and propose a foreign policy that will benefit Thailand (1-2 people)	A written proposal (500-750 words)
7	Assignment 2 (15 points) Outcomes 3.1, 3.2 SDGs: 4, 16, 17	Compare and contrast different political practices and evaluate their impacts on a political party in an election. (up to 4 people)	A group presentation (8-10 minutes)
9	Assignment 3 (10 points) Outcomes 4.1, 4.2 SDGs: 4, 10, 11, 16, 17	Study a situation in a local community, narrate the problems and propose a social movement campaign which will help solve the problem (1-2 people)	An essay of 500-750 words
12	Quiz 3 (10 points) Outcome 5.1 SDGs: 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17	- Write a paragraph of 200-250 words to describe a graph/chart	In-class quiz
14	Quiz 4 (15 points) Outcome 5.2 SDGs: 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17	- Write a paragraph of 200-250 words to describe an infographic	In-class quiz
15	Assignment 4 (15 points) Outcomes 6.1, 6.2 SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 10	Study a situation of a city and then triangulate relevant variables and use the triangulation to tackle challenges and improve people's living (up to 4 people)	A group presentation (8-10 minutes)

Active Learning Activities

1. Lectures, discussions, Q&A
2. Hands-on language interpretation and discourse analyses
3. Extensive learning from authentic media and publications
4. Problem solving and project planning
5. Presentations

Plagiarism policy

Thammasat University students 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 their assignments are thus considered cheating, which will result in a mark of zero for the assignment or even an F grade. Please refer to Thammasat University's regulations on students' disciplines [here](#) and examination [here](#).

Important dates

Add/Drop August 15 - 28, 2023
 Withdrawal with 'W' September 4 - October 22, 2023

Tentative Teaching and Learning Schedule

Date	Learning outcome/activity	Topic/Content
<u>Week 1:</u> August 21	<u>Contemporary concepts and theories (International Affairs):</u> - Course Introduction - Analyse definitions of words and how they describe current global phenomena - Describe how concepts explain real situations COLO - 1.1; SDGs: 4, 16, 17	Describing IA concepts and theories
<u>Week 2:</u> August 28	- Watch a video about liberalism - Write a paragraph to review liberalism in the context of migration crisis COLO: 1.2; SDGs: 4, 16, 17 Quiz 1 (10%)	Reviewing IA theories
<u>Week 3:</u> September 4	<u>New world order (International Affairs):</u> - Read texts about deglobalisation and identify their patterns - Identify sentence functions - Making a statement and summarise ideas COLO: 2.1; SDGs: 4, 16, 17 Quiz 2 (15%)	Summarising ideas and making a statement
<u>Week 4:</u> September 11	<u>Indo-Pacific region (International Affairs):</u> - Read texts about the roles of China and the US in ASEAN and study causal relations - Watch a video about US alliances in Asia-Pacific region and elaborate sentences - Make a prediction about the potential status of India as a new superpower COLO: 2.2; SDGs: 4, 16, 17 Assignment 1 (10%) -Due September 29	Making predictions

<u>Week 5:</u> <i>*(Makeup class is scheduled sometime in Week 4)*</i>	Political practices (Politics and Government): - Read texts about political compromise, alienation and rationality - List the advantages and disadvantages of the three political practices COLO: 3.1; SDGs: 4, 16, 17	Discussing advantages and disadvantages of a political practice
<u>Week 6:</u> September 18	- Watch videos about Germany's recession and labour shortage - Identify key factors for problem solving - Evaluating two political practices and offer judgement COLO: 3.2; SDGs: 4, 16, 17	Comparing different political practices
<u>Week 7:</u> September 25	Group presentations Assignment 2 (15%)	
October 1-8	Midterm Examination Break	
Date	Learning outcome/activity	Topic/Content
<u>Week 8:</u> October 9	Decentralisation (Politics and Government): - Study problems concerning decentralisation and how they are addressed - Report the development of a problem - Develop a rationale to promote decentralisation COLO: 4.1; SDGs: 4, 10, 11, 16, 17	Narrating local problems
<u>Week 9:</u> October 16	Social movement (Politics and Government): - Study an ESCAP report on social protection and welfare state building and explore how politics plays its great role in this matter - Watch a WEF video about how to efficiently initiate a social movement - Design a social campaign COLO: 4.2; SDGs: 4, 10, 11, 16, 17 Assignment 3 (10%) - Due October 31	Proposing ideas to solve a problem
<u>Week 10:</u> October 23 <i>*(Makeup class is scheduled sometime this week)*</i>	Water governance (Public Administration): - Explore hydro politics and water security - Learn to read and extract major details from graphs and charts reporting on water governance - Organise ideas for statistical reports COLO: 5.1; SDGs: 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17	Analysing graphs and charts
<u>Week 11:</u> October 30	Writing brief statistical reports: - Learn how to describe statistical data for different purposes - Describe some statistical data about water management COLO: 5.1; SDGs: 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17	Writing brief statistical reports
<u>Week 12:</u> November 6	- Read some infographics about how to manage water at different levels and study how they are described and elaborated in texts - Check how the graphics match the descriptions COLO: 5.2; SDGs: 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17 Quiz 3 (10%)	Describing infographics

<p><u>Week 13:</u> November 13</p>	<p>Area-based education (Public Administration):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study the development of area-based learning innovation and identify variables in area-based education - Develop projects from variables to promote area-based education - Prepare for Assignment 4 (discuss two alternative situations) <p>COLO: 6.1; SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 10</p>	<p>Constructing triangulation and developing arguments</p>
<p><u>Week 14:</u> November 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse how triangulation, arguments, causal relations and solutions lead to different results - Check how information is organised and packaged into the report - Further prepare for Assignment 4 (organise ideas for the presentations) <p>COLO: 6.2; SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 10</p> <p>Quiz 4 (15%)</p>	<p>Presenting triangulated plans</p>
<p><u>Week 15:</u> November 27</p>	<p>Group presentations</p> <p>Assignment 4 (15%)</p>	
<p>December 6-8, 12-23</p>	<p><i>Final Examination Break</i></p>	

Note: This course has no mid-term and final examinations.