



Language Institute Thammasat University  
**EL 331 English for Political Scientists II**  
Course Syllabus Semester 1/2023

## Course Description

Study of current and ongoing national and international political issues. Student-centered analysis and English discussion of political issues. Practice in summarizing, presenting, and critical thinking. Development of self-directed language learning using authentic political materials.

## Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes (COLOs)

**Objective 1:** Students will be able to deliver original, accurate and concise written and oral reports on an ongoing political issue.

**Outcome 1.1:** Summarize in writing the most recent significant news developments of an issue.

**Outcome 1.2:** Summarize orally the most recent significant news developments of an issue.

**Objective 2:** Students will be able to explain the relevance of an issue to previous PO courses.

**Outcome 2.1:** Write or present orally an analysis of how an ongoing political issue can be understood in terms of theories, models, principles or approaches in the field of political science.

**Objective 3:** Students will be able to present an informed and well-argued position on a current political issue.

**Outcome 3.1:** Think critically and express an opinion and a recommended solution to a current political issue.

**Outcome 3.2:** Present in writing or orally, a review and analysis of the major developments in an issue over the semester and defend a position and recommendation.

**Objective 4:** Students will be able to achieve project-based learning benefits and learn with higher motivation, greater interest and confidence through authentic English materials of their own choice and at a pace and proficiency level they are allowed to manage.

**Outcome 4.1:** Students self-select topics and source materials at a language complexity they choose.

**Outcome 4.2:** Students opt for their preferred productive language skill.

**Outcome 4.3:** English language study and vocabulary learning are self-directed.

## Course Contents

1. Exploration of a current, ongoing political or social issue in Thailand, regionally, or globally
2. Practice in summarizing news developments, analyzing, thinking critically and expressing opinions
3. Explaining the significance of an issue in terms of previous Political Science courses taken
4. Practice in preparing an academic research report
5. Vocabulary and language competency development in the field of Political Science

## Course Materials

Students enrolled in the course will receive a code to join a learning platform that provides access to course materials, assignment details and grading results. Instructors may provide additional supplemental materials during the course.

**\*See page 5 for a list of Online Resources.**

## Course Evaluation

This course has no Mid-term or Final examinations. Student evaluations are based on the following criteria:

Requirements	Points	Final Grade	Total Points
Four Assignments (2x writing, 2x speaking) (10 points each)	40	A	85 and above
Project Report	40	B+	80 - 84
Vocabulary Journal	10	B	70 - 79
Portfolio Assessment (points given by Instructor)	10	C+	60 - 69
		C	55 - 59
		D+	53 - 54
		D	50 - 52
		F	49 and below
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>		

**\*See page 6 for "Grade Explanation"**

## Details of Requirements (90%)

Weeks	Requirements	What to do:	What to submit:
4 & 8	<b>Assignments 1 &amp; 3</b> (10% each) Outcomes 1.1, 4.1 SDG: 4, 1-3, 5-17	Search online (or any listening source) for the most recent <b>spoken</b> news about your issue	a 1-2 paragraph <b>written</b> summary, including the source you listened to
6 & 11	<b>Assignments 2 &amp; 4</b> (10% each) Outcomes 1.2, 4.1 SDG: 4, 1-3, 5-17	Search online (or any source) for the most recent <b>written</b> news about your issue	a 1-minute <b>spoken</b> VDO summary, including the source you read
15	<b>Project Report</b> (40%) Outcomes 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 SDG: 4, 1-3, 5-17	Explain how your issue relates to a theory, model, principle, approach or ideas that you have studied previously in Political Science. Review and analyze the major developments in your issue over the semester. Present an opinion and a recommended solution to your chosen issue.	Choose one (including references to sources): - a 2 page (minimum) <b>written</b> essay or - a 2-3 minute <b>spoken</b> recorded video
15	<b>Vocabulary Journal</b> (10%) Outcomes 4.1, 4.3	Over the semester, keep a list of new vocabulary words that you have to look up	a list of at least 50 new vocabulary words with definitions and example sentences

### Active Learning Activities

1. Online research reports of students' choice
2. Choice of presentation mode (written, oral or VDO) for some assignments
4. Self-directed study
5. Individualized counselling upon students' initiative

### Attendance

No course points are given for attendance. However, students are encouraged to take advantage of the Counselling hours when the instructor is available.

### Plagiarism policy

Thammasat University students are prohibited from engaging in any kind of plagiarism which could result in a failing grade for an assignment or the entire course. Students are required to read Thammasat University plagiarism policies [here](#) and [here](#).

### Instructors, time and venue

Sec/Gr	Day	Time	Room	Instructor
810001	Monday	09:30-12:30	LI 209	Asst. Prof. Edward Geerson edward.g@litu.tu.ac.th
810002	Monday	09:30-12:30	SC2-205	Ajarn Panitnan panitnan@tu.ac.th
820001	Monday	13:30-16:30	LI 209	Asst. Prof. Edward Geerson edward.g@litu.tu.ac.th
820002	Monday	13:30-16:30	SC2-311	Ajarn Graeme Hunter graeme.h@litu.tu.ac.th

### Tentative Teaching and Learning Schedule

Week	Date	Contents + Assignments	Homework
1	21 Aug 23	Course Introduction & Overview	Decide on project issue
2	28 Aug 23	Project Issue assignments; discussion	Prepare Assignment #1
3	04 Sep 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" "
4	11 Sep 23	<b>Assignment #1 due</b>	Prepare Assignment #2
5	18 Sep 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" "
6	25 Sep 23	<b>Assignment #2 due</b>	Prepare Assignment #3
<b>Mid-Term Break (no exam)</b>			
7	09 Oct 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" "
8	16 Oct 23	<b>Assignment #3 due</b>	Prepare Assignment #4
9	23 Oct 23	<b>HOLIDAY:</b> Research/Self-Study	" "
10	30 Oct 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" "
11	06 Nov 23	<b>Assignment #4 due</b>	Prepare Project Report
12	13 Nov 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" "
13	20 Nov 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" "
14	27 Nov 23	Counselling/Research/Self-Study	" " & Vocab Journal
15	04 Dec 23	<b>Submit Project Report &amp; Vocabulary Journal</b>	

### Important Dates

Add/Drop: 15-28 August 2023  
Withdrawal with "W" Until 22 October 2023

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### **Listening** to news:

BBC	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bbc+news">https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bbc+news</a>
CNN	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/CNN">https://www.youtube.com/user/CNN</a> or <a href="https://edition.cnn.com/">https://edition.cnn.com/</a>
WION	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@WION">https://www.youtube.com/@WION</a>
Al Jazeera	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNye-wNBqNL5ZzHSJj3l8Bg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNye-wNBqNL5ZzHSJj3l8Bg</a>
AP News	<a href="http://player.streamguys.com/apnews/sgplayer/player.php">http://player.streamguys.com/apnews/sgplayer/player.php</a>
Reuters	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@Reuters">https://www.youtube.com/@Reuters</a>
DW News	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@dwnews">https://www.youtube.com/@dwnews</a>
Global News	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@globalnews/videos">https://www.youtube.com/@globalnews/videos</a>

### **Reading** the news:

Bangkok Post	<a href="https://www.bangkokpost.com/">https://www.bangkokpost.com/</a>
UPI News	<a href="https://www.upi.com/">https://www.upi.com/</a>
AP News	<a href="https://apnews.com/">https://apnews.com/</a>
Reuters	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/news/archive/worldNews?date=today">https://www.reuters.com/news/archive/worldNews?date=today</a>
Newsweek	<a href="https://www.newsweek.com/world">https://www.newsweek.com/world</a>
Time	<a href="https://time.com/section/world/">https://time.com/section/world/</a>
The Guardian	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/international">https://www.theguardian.com/international</a>
CNN	<a href="https://edition.cnn.com/">https://edition.cnn.com/</a>
BBC	<a href="https://www.bbc.com/news">https://www.bbc.com/news</a>
Google News	<a href="https://news.google.com">https://news.google.com</a> (click on "World" on left side tab)

### **Academic Citation** How to cite (make reference to) sources of information in academic writing:

<https://www.nupress.grad.nu.ac.th/วิธีการเขียนบรรณานุกรม/>

### **Miscellaneous**

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/> (fact-filled information about any country)

### **Self-Study** English language learning

Bangkok Post	<a href="https://www.bangkokpost.com/learning/">https://www.bangkokpost.com/learning/</a>
BBC	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/englishinthenews">https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/englishinthenews</a>
Breaking News English	(limited stories but can be adjusted to slow-medium-fast speeds) <a href="https://breakingnewsenglish.com/multi-speed-listening.html">https://breakingnewsenglish.com/multi-speed-listening.html</a>
ESL-lab.com	(very limited stories but good for beginning listeners) <a href="https://www.esl-lab.com/academic-english/news-stories/">https://www.esl-lab.com/academic-english/news-stories/</a>
Internet TESL	<a href="http://a4esl.org/">http://a4esl.org/</a>
ESL Cyber	<a href="https://www.esl-lab.com/">https://www.esl-lab.com/</a>

## Grade Explanation

Band/ Level/ Rating	Description	Assignment X 4	Project Report	Vocabulary Journal	Portfolio Assessment
		10	40	10	10
Points					
<b>Gold</b> <i>Excellent</i>  A  Top 10%  CEFR C1	<b>Assignment:</b> Exceeded all requirements <b>Content:</b> Very well organized, very good analysis with strong evidence of critical thinking and confident oral delivery. Fulfilled all the course objectives and outcomes. <b>Language:</b> generally accurate grammar, superior use of vocabulary, able to express complex ideas and can contribute to a meaningful discussion fluently	10 9	40 - 35	10 9	10 9
<b>Silver</b> <i>Good</i>  B+  In top 20%  CEFR B2	<b>Assignment:</b> Surpassed most requirements <b>Content:</b> well organized, good analysis with evidence of critical thinking. Good oral delivery without over relying on prepared notes. Fulfilled all the course objectives and outcomes. <b>Language:</b> generally good grammar and vocabulary; able to express ideas clearly and can sustain a discussion meaningfully	8	34 33 32	8	8
<b>Bronze</b> <i>Satisfactory</i>  B Normal Class Avg  40% of class  CEFR B1	<b>Assignment:</b> Met most requirements <b>Content:</b> clear organization, sufficient attempt to analyze and demonstrate critical thinking; oral delivery relied too much on reading prepared text. Achieved most course objectives and outcomes. <b>Language:</b> grammar and vocabulary were adequate to convey general meaning, can continue a discussion when prompted and guided by another speaker	7	31 30 29 28	7	7
<b>Green</b> <i>Fair</i>  C-C+ Below Class Avg  Lower 20%  CEFR A2	<b>Assignment:</b> Satisfied minimum requirements <b>Content:</b> attempted to organize with some evidence of analysis or critical thinking; oral delivery relied solely on reading a prepared text out loud. Met some course objectives and outcomes. <b>Language:</b> short, simple sentences with narrow range of vocabulary; very difficult to contribute to or continue a discussion	6	27 - 22	6	6
<b>Yellow</b> <i>Basic</i>  D-D+  10%  CEFR A1	The <b>Assignment</b> exceeded ability to satisfy requirements <b>Content:</b> weak organization that conveyed little analysis or critical thinking; not able to deliver orally without a written text. Weak achievement of course objectives and outcomes. <b>Language:</b> basic sentences with limited vocabulary; can convey information on simple, everyday topics	5 4 3 2 1	21 & below	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1
<b>Red</b> <i>Fail</i>	Plagiarised Not submitted or submitted too late Language sample insufficient to rate	0	0	0	0