

PLS 140
Presentation instructions

Your section's TA will assign you to a group that will be responsible for preparing and recording a video presentation on the political system of the United Kingdom, Brazil, the United States, China, Russia, or India; this political system's evolution over time; and important recent political developments in the country.

The presentation should provide a general overview of the political system, examine the historical processes responsible for its key features, explain the impacts of those processes and features on prominent political events such as elections or transfers of power that have taken place in the last few years, and relate these political phenomena to recent class material. You should primarily draw on the textbook and nonacademic sources such as media sites and Wikipedia, but the best presentations will also report the findings of some prominent scholarly studies of the country.

The presentation should be 10-15 minutes long and recorded in a video format. In your section's forum on Moodle, your group will need to share a link to a presentation video uploaded to PeerTube, Youtube, Google Drive, or any other online platform easily accessible to your fellow students.

The group will also provide five discussion questions for a class discussion that will be moderated by your TA but led by students in the group.

You will receive both a group grade and an individual grade for the presentation. The group grade will reflect the overall quality of the finished work. The individual grade will be based on your contributions to the output, which will be determined by your TA based on their assessment of your work, self-reporting, and your groupmates' evaluation of your efforts. These two equally weighted grades make up your presentation grade, which is worth 10% of your overall grade in the course.

The directions above are necessarily general because of the diversity of political systems that different presentations will examine. Your TA and I are happy to offer more specific advice on your particular presentation in office hours.

Presentation rubric

	Failure	Minimally acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Understanding of the country's political system and its key features	The presentation provides no evidence of the presenters' understanding of the political system.	The presentation is suggestive of limited understanding of the political system, based on superficial engagement with	The presentation indicates some understanding of the political system, based on evident effort to engage	The presentation demonstrates solid understanding of the political system, based on evident	The presentation demonstrates excellent understanding of the political system, based on evident

		relevant course material. In some cases a large number of factual errors may be present.	with relevant course material. In some cases a small number of factual errors may be present.	engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a very small number of factual errors may be present.	engagement with relevant course and outside nonacademic material and, in most cases, consultation of outside scholarly material
Understanding of the historical processes that have given rise to the country's current political system	The presentation provides no evidence of the presenters' understanding of the political system's evolution.	The presentation is suggestive of limited understanding of the political system's evolution, based on superficial engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a large number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation indicates some understanding of the political system's evolution, based on evident effort to engage with relevant course material. In some cases a small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates solid understanding of the political system's evolution, based on evident engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a very small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates excellent understanding of the political system's evolution, based on evident engagement with relevant course and outside nonacademic material and, in most cases, consultation of outside scholarly material
Knowledge of the country's recent political history	The presentation provides no evidence of the presenters' knowledge of prominent recent political events in the country.	The presentation is suggestive of limited knowledge of prominent recent political events in the country, based on superficial engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a large number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation indicates some knowledge of prominent recent political events in the country, based on evident effort to engage with relevant course material. In some cases a small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates solid knowledge of prominent recent political events in the country, based on evident engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a very small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates excellent knowledge of prominent recent political events in the country, based on evident engagement with relevant course and outside nonacademic material and, in most cases, consultation of outside scholarly material
Presentation structure and delivery	Weak or no organization, random expression of ideas, disjointed or incomprehensible delivery.	Difficult to follow and/or poorly delivered presentation.	The presentation follows a clear, if not necessarily well-thought-out, organization and the delivery is	The presentation is clearly structured and delivered in a manner that helps the audience to	The presentation is clearly structured and delivered in a manner that helps the audience to gain

			somewhat engaging.	absorb the content.	valuable new insights and/or consider the subject from different perspectives in addition to absorbing the content.
Questions and discussion	No discussion questions are provided or those questions are poorly-thought-out. Poor handling of the presentation discussion.	Some effort has been made to formulate discussion questions and lead the discussion, but they do not help section members to develop their understanding of the topic.	Evident effort has been made to formulate discussion questions and lead the discussion, and they do help section members to develop their understanding of the topic, but the questions could be better thought-out and the discussion handled better.	Both the discussion questions and the handling of the discussion contribute to section members' understanding of the topic.	The well-thought-out discussion questions challenge section members to engage in careful analysis of the topic in a well-structured discussion.

Individual presentation contribution rubric

	Failure	Minimally acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Responsiveness in group communications	The student did not participate in group communications.	The student occasionally participated in group communications.	The student regularly participated in group communications.	The student fully participated in group communications.	The student led group communications.
Presentation planning	The student did not participate in the planning of the presentation.	The student occasionally participated in the planning of the presentation and made some contribution to the presentation's organization, to the required research, etc.	The student regularly participated in the planning of the presentation and made meaningful contribution to the presentation's organization, to the required research, etc.	The student fully participated in the planning of the presentation and made substantial contribution to the presentation's organization, to the required research, etc.	The student played a leadership role in the planning of the presentation.
Presentation creation	The student did not participate in the creation of the presentation.	The student occasionally participated in the creation of	The student regularly participated in the creation of	The student fully participated in the creation of the presentation	The student played a leadership role in the creation

		the presentation and made some contribution to the recording to the presentation video, handled other technical aspects of video creation, etc.	the presentation and made meaningful contribution to the recording to the presentation video, handled other technical aspects of video creation, etc.	and made substantial contribution to the recording to the presentation video, handled other technical aspects of video creation, etc.	of the presentation.
Discussion leadership	The student did not participate in the section discussion or its preparation.	The student occasionally helped to lead the section discussion and made some contribution to the development of discussion questions and/or discussion organization.	The student regularly helped to lead the section discussion and made meaningful contribution to the development of discussion questions and/or discussion organization.	The student fully helped to lead the section discussion and made substantial contribution to the development of discussion questions and/or discussion organization.	The student led the discussion and its preparation.