

Political Science 190: The Scope of Political Science

This course is designed to introduce you to different ways of understanding politics and its relationship to human life as a whole. More specifically, it encourages you to think both imaginatively and rigorously about the legal-institutional, socio-economic, and cultural-psychological dimensions of political life. You will learn that the scope of politics includes subjects treated separately in the disciplines of history, sociology, economics, anthropology and psychology, and thus come to appreciate why Aristotle long ago described political science as the “most comprehensive master science”.

Lectures will normally take place on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Friday sessions will usually be devoted to discussions of the readings and lectures and will be led by Daniel Bliss and Dimitra Katsikidis, the Teaching Assistants assigned to this course. The required readings for this course have been assembled in packets that should be purchased and will be distributed during the first week of class. Many of the readings are quite challenging, and understanding them will require serious and sustained effort on your part. The lectures will cover some, but not all, of the readings. Additional material not in the readings may also be covered in the lectures. Thus you will have to attend the lectures *and* read the material in your packets in order to do well in this course. You will also have to make use of the Friday discussion sections to ask questions you may have about the readings and the lectures. These sessions will give you the opportunity to delve more deeply into issues raised in the course than is possible during the lectures.

All students will be required to write four short (*five* double-spaced typed page) papers on topics that will be announced well before the dates on which they are due. The due date for each paper will fall on the Friday immediately following the last lecture for each substantive section of the course: September 23, October 21, November 18, and December 2 . (Note that there are only two weeks between the due date for the third and the due date for the fourth paper.) You will not be adequately prepared to write these papers unless you attend class and complete all of the required reading. The papers will be graded by Ms. Katsikidis and Mr. Bliss under the supervision of the Professor Balbus. Papers turned in late will (in the absence of a legitimate, compelling excuse) have their grade lowered one letter grade for each day they are late. Although you are obliged to complete all four papers, the lowest of your four paper grades will not be counted in the computation of your final grade for the course. Note that this “drop-the-lowest-grade” rule only applies to students who have completed and turned in *all four papers*. Attendance and participation in discussion sections will be evaluated by your Teaching Assistant and will count for roughly 10% of your grade in the course.

I. Introduction: Politics as a Contested Term (Week 1)

II. Law and Institutions (Weeks 2-5)

Lecture 1: Law and the Rule of Law

Required: Ingram, *What is Law?*, pp. 1-59.

Lecture 2: The Separation of Powers (with Checks and Balances)

Required: Ingram, *Constitutional Law*, pp. 1-14; Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Book 11, chapters 3-6, pp. 200-213; James Madison, *Federalist Papers* 47, 48, 49, 51, pp. 234-48; 251-55; Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II, chapters 1-2, pp. 59-61.

Lecture 3: Judicial Review

Required: Ingram, "The Separation of Powers Reconsidered: The Principle of Judicial Review Within the American Context", pp.14-36; Hamilton, *Federalist* 78, pp.377-83; Robert Yates, *Letters of Brutus* xi, xii, xv, pp. 501-512; 525-29.

Lecture 4: Conceptions of Democracy: "Thin" versus "Thick"

Required: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book III, Chapter XV, "On Deputies or Representatives", pp.101-104; Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy*, pp.1-9; Joseph Schumpeter, "Another Theory of Democracy", pp. 269-73; 282-83; Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*, pp.xi-xvi; 3-25; 150-55

Lecture 5: The Concept (and Reality?)of Representation

Required, Hanna Pitkin, "The Mandate-Independent Controversy", in *The Concept of Representation*, pp. 144-167; Kenneth Prewitt and Heinz Eulau, "Political Matrix and Political Representation", pp. 127-47.

Lecture 6: Political Parties

Required: Madison, *Federalist Paper* 10; E.E. Schattschneider, *Party Government*, pp. 65-93; Lisa Disch, *The Tyranny of the Two-Party System*; pp.4-14; 127-140.

Lecture 7: Elections

Required: V.O. Key, jr., *The Responsible Electorate*, pp. 1-8; Forward by Arthur Maas, vii-xv; pp. 149-51; Thomas E. Patterson, "The Miscast Institution", in *Out of Order*, pp. 28-42; Walter

Dean Burnham, "The Changing Shape of the American Political Universe", pp. 7-28.

Lecture 8: Civil Society

Required: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume I, Chapter XII, pp. 216-226; Volume II, Chapters V-VII, pp. 106-120; Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital", pp. 1-9; John Ehrenberg, *Civil Society: The Critical History of an Idea*, pp. 233-250.

III. Markets and Power (Weeks 6-9)

Lecture 9: Human Nature and the Market

Required: Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, pp.25-30; Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, pp. 33-76.

Lecture 10: Freedom and the Market

Required: Rose and Milton Friedman, "The Power of the Market", pp.9-37; Karl Marx, "Estranged Labour", in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 70-81.

Lecture 11: Justice and the Market

Required: Friedrich A. Hayek, "Equality, Value, and Merit", pp. 80-99; John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 60-65, 75-80; 100-108; 534-541.

Lecture 12: Democracy and the Market I: Corporations and the State

Required: Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets*, pp. 76-89; 170-200.

Lecture 13: Democracy and the Market II: Corporate Governance

Required: Doug Henwood, "Governance", in *Wall Street*, pp. 246-94; Robert A. Dahl, "The Corporate Leviathan", in *After The Revolution?*, pp. 96-115.

Lecture 14: Democracy and the Market III: Globalization and Governance

Required: David Held and Anthony McGrew, *Globalization/Anti-Globalization*, pp. 38-59; 62-74; Jackie Smith, "Globalizing Resistance: The Battle of Seattle and the Future of Social Movements", in Jackie Smith and Hank Johnston, *Globalization and Resistance* (2002), pp. 207-222.

Lecture 15: The Concept of Power I: The Three Faces of "Negative" Power

Required: Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*, pp. 9-57.

Lecture 16: The Concept of Power II: “Positive” Power: Normalization versus Communication

Required: Michel Foucault, “The Means of Correct Training”, in *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 170-94; Hannah Arendt, “Communicative Power”, pp. 60-74.

IV. Culture and Identity (Weeks 10-13)

Lecture 17: What is (a) Culture?

Required: Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretative Theory of Culture”, pp.3-30, in *The Interpretation of Cultures*, 1973; Marvin Harris, “The Origin of the Sacred Cow” and “A ‘Beef’ with Sahlins”, pp. 248-57, in Harris, *Cultural Materialism*, 1979.

Lecture 18: Beyond Ethnocentrism and Relativism?

Required: Peter Winch, “Understanding a Primitive Society”; pp.159-87; I. C. Jarvie, “Understanding and Explanation in Sociology and Social Anthropology”, pp. 189-204; Peter Winch, “Comment”, pp. 207-214, all in Fred R. Dallmayr and Thomas A. McCarthy, *Understanding and Social Inquiry*, 1977

Lecture 19: Modernity

Required: Anthony Giddens, “The Contours of High Modernity”, pp.10-34, in Giddens, *Modernity and Self-Identity*, 1991; Zygmunt Bauman, “Modernity, or Deconstructing Mortality”, pp. 129-160, in *Mortality, Immortality and Other Life Strategies*, 1992.

Lecture 20: Modernity and Identity

Required: Charles Taylor, “The Politics of Recognition”, pp. 75-106, in Taylor, *Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition*, 1992; Joan W. Scott, “Multiculturalism and the Politics of Identity”, pp. 3-11, in John Rajchman, *The Identity in Question*, 1995; Todd Gitlin, “The Poignancy of Multiculturalism”, pp. 223-37, in *The Twilight of Common Dreams*.

Lecture 21: Gender Identity

Required: Carol Gilligan, “Women’s Place in Man’s Life Cycle”, pp. 5-23, in *In a Different Voice*, 1982; Nancy Fraser and Linda J. Nicholson, “Social Criticism Without Philosophy: An Encounter Between Feminism and Postmodernism”, pp. 26-35; Susan Bordo, “Feminism, Post-Modernism, and Gender-Scepticism”, pp. 133-142 and 149-153, both in Nicholson, ed., *Feminism/Postmodernism*, 1990

Lecture 22: Racial Identity

Required: W.E.B. DuBois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", pp. 37-44, in *The Souls of Black Folk*, 1903; Anthony Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument: DuBois and the Illusion of Race", pp. 21-36, in Henry Louis Gates, Jr., ed., *Race, Writing and Difference*, 1986; Eric Lott, *Love and Theft*, pp. 3-7; 15-20; 112-122; 138-50.

Lecture 23: National Identity

Required: Anthony D. Smith, "Social Construction and Ethnic Genealogy", pp. 52-77, in Smith, *The Nation in History*, 2000; Michael Ignatieff, "Benign Nationalism?: The Possibilities of the Civic Ideal" and Robert Fine, "Benign Nationalism?: The Limits of the Civic Ideal", pp. 141-161, in Edward Mortimer, ed., *People, Nation and State*, 1999; Anatol Lieven, "The Threat to American Hegemony", pp. 11-18, in Lieven, *America, Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism*, 2004.

Lecture 24: Religious Identity

Required: Roger Finke, "An Unsecular America", pp. 145-165, in Steve Bruce, ed., *Religion and Modernization*, 1992; Anatol Lieven, "Antithesis Part II: Fundamentalists and Great Fears", in Lieven, *America, Right or Wrong*, pp. 123-130; 137-149.

V. Conclusion: The Connections Among Law and Institutions, Markets and Power, and Culture and Identity (Weeks 14-15)

Lecture 25: The Primacy of Markets and Power: Capitalism as *The Problem*

Required: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, Preface to the German Edition of 1872, Sections I-II, IV; Marx, *The Civil War in France*, Introduction by Engels and Part III; Marx, "Preface" to a *Contribution to a Critique of Political Economy* ("Marx on the History of his Opinions")

Lecture 26: The Primacy of Law and Institutions: Bureaucracy as *The Problem*

Required: Robert Michels, *Political Parties*, Part Six; H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, *From Max Weber*, pp. 196-204; 212-235; 240-244; Max Weber, *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*, pp. 337-341.

Lecture 27: The Primacy of Culture: Instrumental Rationality as *The Problem*

Required: Jacques Ellul, *The Technological Society*, pp.19-22; 77-111; 116-133

Lecture 28: The Primacy of Psychology: Aggression as *The Problem*

Required: Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, pp.58-77; p.81; pp. 86-92; Dorothy Dinnerstein, *The Mermaid and the Minotaur*, pp.91-114; 160-182; 184-91; 196-97.

Lecturer

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Teaching Assistants

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