

### **POLITICAL SCIENCE 293: POSSIBLE POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

This course offers a dose of visionary political thinking as an antidote for the pervasive political pessimism from which we suffer. More specifically, it elaborates a vision of an ideal society characterized by sexual, political and technological liberation. At the same time, it is designed to encourage serious discussion about the possibility of--and thus the obstacles to--the actualization of this ideal. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with the case for feminism, participatory democracy, and ecology as well as address the arguments that can be and have been made against the desirability and/or possibility of these forms of liberation. Four short (five to seven pages, double-spaced and typed) papers will be required.

It should go without saying that students are expected to come to class having *done the required reading* and therefore being prepared to ask questions and make comments during lectures and discussions.

The following required readings are available for purchase at Circle Center Bookstore:

Ernest Callenbach, *Ecotopia*  
Robert A. Dahl, *After the Revolution*

E. Gene Frankland and Donald Schoonmaker, *Between Protest and Power*,  
Steven

Goldberg, *The Inevitability of Patriarchy*, and *The Critique of Deep Ecology*,  
will

be available for purchase from Professor Balbus or at the front office.

Week 1            I.        Introduction: Obstacles to the Utopian Imagination

Weeks 2-4        II.        A Feminist, Ecological and Participatory Democratic Utopia

Required: Callenbach, *Ecotopia*

III. The Anti-Utopian Arguments

Weeks 5-7 A. The Case Against Feminism

Required: Goldberg, *The Inevitability of Patriarchy*

Recommended:

Dorothy Dinnerstein, *The Mermaid and the Minotaur*

Margaret Mead, *Male and Female*

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

H.R. Hays, *The Dangerous Sex*

Sandra Bartky, *Femininity and Domination*

Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere, *Women, Culture and Society*

Rayna Reiter, *Toward an Anthropology of Women*

Isaac D. Balbus, *Marxism and Domination*, chaps. 2 & 5

Balbus, *Emotional Rescue: The Theory and Practice of a Feminist Father*

Christine Delphy, *Close To Home: A Materialist Analysis of Women's Oppression*

Catherine A. MacKinnon, *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*

Nancy Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering*

Jessica Benjamin, *The Bonds of Love*

Juliet Mitchell, *Woman's Estate*

Peggy Sandy, *Female Power and Male Dominance*

Martin King Whyte, *The Status of Women in Preindustrial*

*Societies*

Weeks 8-10 B. The Case Against Participatory Democracy

Required: Dahl, *After the Revolution?*

Recommended:

Michael Albert and Robin Hahnel, *Looking Forward:*

*Participatory*

*Economics for the Twenty-First Century*

David Schweikart, *Capitalism or Worker Control?*

Julian LeGrand and Saul Estrin, eds., *Market Socialism*

Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory*

Robert Paul Wolff, *In Defense of Anarchism*

George C. Benello and Dimitrios I. Roussopoulos, *The Case for Participatory Democracy*  
 Steve Shalom, ed., *Socialist Visions*  
 Jane Mansbridge, *Beyond Adversary Democracy*  
 Kirkpatrick Sale, *Human Scale*  
 Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*  
 James Bohman, ed., *Deliberative Democracy*  
 Amy Gutman and Dennis Thompson, *Why Deliberative Democracy?*  
 John Dryzek, *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond*  
 James F. Fishkin and Peter Laslett, *Debating Deliberative Democracy*

Weeks 11-13 C. The Case Against Deep Ecology

Required: "The Critique of Deep Ecology"

Recommended:

Arne Naess, *Ecology, Community and Lifestyle*  
 Barry Commoner, *The Closing Circle*  
 Jeremy Rifkin, *Entropy*  
 Murray Bookchin, *Post-Scarcity Anarchism*  
 Bookchin, *Re-enchanting Humanity*  
 Bookchin, *The Ecology of Freedom*  
 Bookchin and Dave Foreman, *Defending the Earth*  
 Richard Neuhaus, *In Defense of People*  
 Ivan Illich, *Tools for Conviviality*  
 Robert E. Goodin, *Green Political Theory*  
 David W. Kidner *Nature and Psyche*  
 Michael E. Zimmerman, *Contesting Earth's Future*  
 Timothy W. Luke, *Ecocritique*  
 Ingolfur Bluhdorn, *Post-Ecological Politics*  
 Kirkpatrick Sale, *Dwellers in the Land: The Bioregional Vision*  
 E. F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*  
 George Sessions and Bill Duvall, *Deep Ecology*  
 Andrew McLaughlin, *Regarding Nature: Industrialism and Deep Ecology*  
 David Pepper, *Eco-Socialism: From Deep Ecology to Social Justice*  
 Andrew Dobson and Paul Lucardie, *The Politics of Nature*  
 Balbus, *Marxism and Domination*, chaps. 8-9  
 Bill McKibben, *The End of Nature*  
 Robin Eekersley, *Environmentalism and Political Theory:*

*Towards*

*an Ecocentric Approach*

Weeks 14-15 IV. Contemporary Practice and Future Prospects

*Power*

Required: Frankland and Schoonmaker, *Between Protest and*

Recommended:

John Barry, *Rethinking Green Politics*

Margit Mayer and John Ely, eds., *The German Greens: Paradox  
Between Movement and Party*

Fritjof Capra and Charlene Spretnak, *Green Politics*

Jonathan Porritt, *Seeing Green*

Werner Hulsberg, *The German Greens*

Balbus, *Marxism and Domination*, chap. 10

*Programme of the German Green Party*

Helmut Wieselthaler, *Realism in Green Politics*

William E. Coleman, Jr. & William E. Coleman, Sr., *A Rhetoric  
of the People: The German Greens and the New Politics*

Wolfgang Rudig, ed., *Green Politics One*

Daniel Coleman, *Ecopolitics: Building a Green Society*

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