

GVPT101
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Spring 2015

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-2:50 PM in Tydings 2106

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-6 PM; and by appointment

Sections: 0101 Fridays 9-9:50 AM EDU 3236
0102 Fridays 10-10:50 AM EDU 0114
0103 Fridays 1-1:50 PM ASY 3219

This course is a general introduction to political science. You should be warned, however, that while there is a standard way to introduce economics, there is no standard way to introduce political science.

I have made an effort to make this introduction as inclusive as possible. We will look at the broadest range of political phenomena from the small scale negotiation, strategic calculation and deliberation to the largest scale global politics, and from the nastiest form of violent politics (war, revolution, terrorism) to a non-violent politics of principle. I have also made an effort to make this a course I could teach in any country in the world, it does not reflect any special US perspective.

To help us organize this diverse material we will develop a simple framework, distinguishing three dimensions or aspects of politics (Hamilton in Federalist #1 will serve as our inspiration):

1. From self-interest to “good government based on reflection and choice.”
2. From fate and accident to design.
3. From violence, destruction and threat of destruction to peace and freedom.

As we look at the Big Picture of politics, we will develop a historical perspective that distinguishes two stages of modernity. The first stage began emerging in the second half of the seventeenth century, out of the deep crisis of that period. The second stage began emerging in the second half of the twentieth century. We are very much in the middle of that, struggling to give shape to a new period.

This framework is my effort to organize the material, but it is not generally agreed upon by political scientists (nothing is generally agreed). So as we move through the course we will also consider some alternative perspectives on the subjects we will cover.

Course Requirements: 2 midterm exams (March 10 and April 16), a 6-8 page research paper (due in class on May 12), and a final exam on Monday, May 18 at 10:30 AM.

Grades: Each midterm will be approximately 20% of the course grade, the final exam will be approximately 40%, the paper – 20%. In addition class participation can increase or diminish your grade by up to ½ a grade.

Readings:

The readings for the course will be in the following sources:

In the required book, available for purchase used from various sources on the internet: Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder (eds.), Essential Readings in World Politics (1st or 2d edition). Norton. **Avoid the later editions.**

On the web, at the web address listed in the syllabus.

In the electronic reserve (e-reserve), accessible through ELMS/CANVAS.

In a journal available through the Research Port on the university library web page.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Overview of the course (January 27)

Part I: Power and Politics

Lectures

Power and Resources (January 29)

Misconceptions about Power (February 3)

Principled and Strategic Politics (February 5)

The Common Good and Deliberation (February 10)

Game Theory and Strategic Interaction-I (February 12)

Game Theory and Strategic Interaction-II (February 17)

Public Goods and the Problem of Collective Action (February 19)

Sections: January 30 (Power and Resources), February 6 (Principled and Strategic Politics), February 13 (Theory of Games), February 20 (Theory of Games and the Problem of Collective Action)

Readings

Power and Resources

Joseph Nye, "What is Power in Global Affairs?" in The Future of Power on e-reserve.

Principled and Strategic Politics

Roger Fisher and William Ury, Getting to Yes, 2d ed., chapter 1, pp. 3-14 on e-reserve
Steven Kelman, "Why Public Ideas Matter," pp. 31-54 in Robert Reich (ed.), Power of Public Ideas on e-reserve

Theory of Games.

Dixit and Nalebuff, chapters 4-6, pp. 89-167 on e-reserve

The Problem of Collective Action.

Michael Taylor, The Possibility of Cooperation, chapter 1, pp. 1-33 on e-reserve

Part II. Violence and Politics

War (February 24)

Revolution (February 26)

Rule of Law (March 3)

Self-limiting Social Movements (March 5)

Sections: February 27 (War and Revolution), March 6 (Law and Self-limiting Social Movements)

Readings

Violent Politics

A. War

von Clausewitz, Schelling and Jervis, pp. 236-61 (1st ed.) or pp. 297-322 (2d ed.) in Mingst and Snyder

B. Communism and Nazism

Stalin, J.V. "The Foundations of Leninism", from Stalin, J.V. Problems of Leninism (Peking: Foreign Languages Press, 1976)

<http://www.marx2mao.com/Stalin/FL24.html>, pp. 1-4 (introductory material), and pp. 38-52 (Chapter IV: The Dictatorship of the Proletariat)

Hitler, Mein Kampf

<http://www.mondopolitico.com/library/meinkampf/v2c5.htm>,
Volume 2 (The National Socialist Movement), Chapter V: Philosophy and Organization.

C. Radical Islamism:

John Calvert, "The Mythic Foundations of Radical Islam." Foreign Policy Research Institute (2004) <http://www.fpri.org/orbis/4801/calvert.mythradicalislam.html>

Politics against Violence

A. Rule of Law

Rachel Kleinfeld, "Competing Definitions of the Rule of Law," chapter 3, pp 31-73 in Thomas Carothers, ed., Promoting the Rule of Law Abroad on e-reserve.

B. Self-limiting Social Movements:

Mohandas Gandhi, Non-violent Resistance, pp. iii-vi, 3-36 on e-reserve.

Martin Luther King, Nobel Lecture (December 11, 1964)
http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-lecture.html

MIDTERM (Parts I and II) March 10

Part III: The System of States

Lectures

State and Nation (March 12)

A Typology of States (March 24)

Constitutional Democracy (March 26)

Social Context of Democracy (March 31)

The Global System of Power (April 2)

Liberalism against Realism (April 7)

Sections: March 27 (Democracy), April 3 (The Global System). There will be no sections on March 13 and March 20.

Readings

A. Institutions of Democratic States

Aristotle, Politics (Benjamin Jowett, trans.), Book 3, Parts vi and vii.
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>

The Federalist Papers, #1 (Hamilton) and #10 (Madison) in: Avalon Project at Yale Law School, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp

S.E. Finer, The History of Government, Book V, Chapter 1, pp. 1473-84 on e-reserve.

Scott Mainwaring, "Two Models of Democracy," Journal of Democracy, 12.3 (2001): 170-5, via Research Port

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," Journal of Democracy, 15.2 (2004): 96-109, via Research Port.

B. Social Context of Democratic States

Aristotle, Politics (Benjamin Jowett, trans), Book 4, Part xi.
www.classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics

Putnam, "Bowling Alone," Journal of Democracy, 6.1 (1995): 65-78, via Research Port.

Karatnycky, "National Income and Liberty," Journal of Democracy, 15.1 (2004): 82-93, via Research Port.

C. The Global System

In Mingst and Snyder:

Chapter 1 (Melian Dialogue, Woodrow Wilson), pp. 2-6 (1st ed.) or pp. 18-20, 26-28 (2d ed.)

Chapter 2 (Walt, Morgenthau, Doyle), pp. 27-52 (1st ed.) or pp. 4-11, 49-53, 73-86 (2d. ed.)

Kant, pp. 393-6 (1st ed.) or pp. 20-24 (2d ed.)

Chapter 4 (Bull, Morgenthau), pp. 139-49 (1st ed.) or pp. 120-9 (2d. ed.)

Part IV; Politics and History

Lectures

Theories of History (April 9)

Modernization (April 14)

Section: April 10

Readings

Inglehart, Modernization and Postmodernization (1997), chapter 1 ("Value Systems"), on e-reserve

Fukuyama, "The End of History?" available at <http://www.wesjones.com/eoh.htm>

MIDTERM II (Parts III and IV) April 16

Part V: Political Issues

Issue 1 – The Economy

Lectures

State and Market (April 21)

Controversies about Markets (April 23)

Section: April 24

Readings

Milton and Rose Friedman, Free to Choose, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. xv-xxi, 1-61, on e-reserve.

Charles Lindblom, "Market as Prison," Journal of Politics (1982). Elms file: lindblom.pdf

Dani Rodrik, The Globalization Paradox. Chapter 9: "The Political Trilemma of the World Economy" on e-reserve.

Issue 2 – The Environment

Lectures

Green Politics: Scarcity, Limits and Tragedy (April 28)

Sustainable Development (April 30)

Section: May 1

Readings

Herman Daly, "Steady State Economics: A New Paradigm," New Literary History, 24 (1993): 811-16, on JSTOR via Research Port

James Speth, The Bridge at the Edge of the World, Introduction and Chapter 10 ("A New Consciousness") on ELMS e-reserve

Bjorn Lomborg, The Skeptical Environmentalist, Chapter 25: "Predicament or Progress?" on ELMS e-reserve

"Earth Charter" available at www.earthcharterinaction.org

Issue 3 -- Human Rights

Lectures

Human Rights History (May 5)

Human Rights Debates (May 7)

Section: May 8

Readings

"Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (1789)

"Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (1948)
both in the Avalon Project at Yale Law School,
<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>

Nickel, "Human Rights" Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, online

Michael Ignatieff, "The Attack on Human Rights," Foreign Affairs, 80.6 (2001): 102-17, via Research Port

Issue 4 -- A New World Order?

Lecture

A New World Order? (May 12)

Readings

In Mingst and Snyder:

Slaughter, pp. 193-200 (1st ed.) or pp. 149-56 (2d. ed.);

Held et al., pp. 431-40 (1st ed.) or pp. 462-71 (2d. ed.);

Friedman, pp. 440-6 (1st ed.) or pp. 471-6 (2d. ed.)

**Samuel Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations?” Foreign Affairs, 72.3 (1993): 22-50, via
Research Port**