

GVPT101
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Spring 2017

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-2:50 PM, TYD 2106

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

Teaching Assistant: Pavel Coronado Castellanos

Sections:	0101 Fridays 9-9:50 AM	TLF 1101
	0102 Fridays 10-10:50 AM	TLF 1101
	0103 Fridays 1-1:50 PM	TLF 1101

This course is a general introduction to 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 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.

As we look at the Big Picture of politics, we will consider the subject of international relations and global politics. We will also 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.

The course ends with a consideration of some big political issues now facing humanity: what kind of an economy should we have? how should we deal with the natural environment? how can we promote basic rights and justice? How can we constructively make sense of the deep conflicts now dividing the world?

Course Requirements: 2 midterm exams (March 14 and April 25), a 6-8 page research paper (due in class on May 11), and a final exam on Wednesday May 17, 10: 30-12: 30.

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.

Policies: University-wide course related policies are found at:
<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Readings:

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

Readings from: Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder (eds.), Essential Readings in World Politics will be available as files on ELMS

Some readings will be available directly from the internet, at the web address listed in the syllabus.

Other readings will be in a journal available free through the university library web page.

The rest of the readings will be in the electronic reserve (e-reserve), accessible through ELMS/CANVAS.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

NO CLASS ON JANUARY 26

Overview of the course (January 31)

Part I: Power and Politics

Lectures

Power and Resources (February 2)

Misconceptions about Power (February 7)

Principled and Strategic Politics (February 9)

The Common Good and Deliberation (February 14)

Game Theory and Strategic Interaction-I (February 16)

Game Theory and Strategic Interaction-II (February 21)

Public Goods and the Problem of Collective Action (February 23)

Sections:

NO SECTIONS on January 27

February 3 (Power and Resources), February 10 (Principled and Strategic Politics, Theory of Games),
February 17, 24 (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, and a file on ELMS.

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 28)

Revolution (March 2)

Rule of Law (March 7)

Self-limiting Social Movements (March 9)

Sections: March 3 (War and Revolution), March 10 (Law and Self-limiting Social Movements)

Readings

Violent Politics

A. War

von Clausewitz, Schelling and Jervis, pp. 236-61 in Mingst and Snyder (file on ELMS)

B. Revolution: The Case of ISIS

Stephen Walt, "ISIS as Revolutionary State" Foreign Affairs (November/December 2015), search by author and title.

Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants" Atlantic Monthly (March 2015), search using author and title.

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, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Various web sites, search using author and title.

MIDTERM (Parts I and II) March 14

Part III: The System of States

Lectures

State and Nation (March 16)

SPRING BREAK

A Typology of States (March 28)

Constitutional Democracy (March 30)

Social Context of Democracy (April 4)

The Global System of Power (April 6)

Liberalism against Realism (April 11)

Sections: March 31 (Institutions of Democracy), April 7 (Social Context of Democracy), April 14 (The Global System). There will be no sections on March 17 and March 24.

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, www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed

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 university library web page

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy*, 15.2 (2004): 96-109, via university library web page.

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 university library web page.

Karatnycky, "National Income and Liberty," *Journal of Democracy*, 15.1 (2004): 82-93, via university library web page.

C. The Global System

In Mingst and Snyder (files on ELMS):

Melian Dialogue, Woodrow Wilson, pp. 2-6

Walt, Morgenthau, Doyle, pp. 27-52

Bull, Morgenthau, pp. 139-49

Part IV; Politics and History

Lectures

Theories of History (April 13)

Modernization (April 18)

Section: April 21

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 25

Part V: Political Issues

Issue 1 – The Economy

Lectures

State and Market (April 20)

Controversies about Markets (April 27)

Section: April 28

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), file on ELMS.

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

Thomas Piketty “New thoughts on capital in twenty first century.” Video at TED.com

Issue 2 – The Environment

Lectures

Green Politics: Scarcity, Limits and Tragedy (May 2)

Sustainable Development (May 4)

Section: May 5

Readings

Garrett Hardin “The Tragedy of the Commons” (1968) search by author/title

Herman Daly, "Steady State Economics: A New Paradigm," New Literary History, 24 (1993): 811-16, on JSTOR via university library web page.

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

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

"Earth Charter" available at www.earthcharterinaction.org

Issues 3 and 4-- Human Rights and the Clash of Civilizations

Lectures

Human Rights (May 9)

Clash of Civilizations (May 11)

Section: May 12

Readings: Rights

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

"Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (1948)
both in the Avalon Project at Yale Law School,
www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed

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

Reading: Clash of Civilizations

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations?" Foreign Affairs, 72.3 (1993): 22-50, via university library web page.