

GVPT100

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Fall 2009

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-3:50 PM
Lectures: Skinner Hall 0200
Instructor: Karol Sołtan

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays 4–5:30; and by appointment

Sections on Fridays (50 minutes each):

0101	9 AM	TLF 1101
0102	12	TYD 1118
0103	9 AM	TYD 1114
0104	2 PM	TYD 1118
0105	12	TYD 2102
0106	9 AM	KEY 0103
0107	2 PM	TYD 1114
0108	12	TYD 2108
0109	11AM	ASY 3207
0110	11AM	COL 0113
0111	1 PM	COL 0113
0112	1	COL 0102

This course is a general introduction to politics. You should be warned, however, that while there is a standard way to introduce economics (for example), there is no standard way to introduce politics or 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 (October 7, November 9), and a final exam on Wednesday, December 16, 1:30-3:30 PM.

Grades: Each midterm will be approximately 20% of the course grade, the final exam will be approximately 40%, and discussion participation -- 20%.

Readings:

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

In the required book, available for purchase at the local bookstores, and also easily available for purchase on line: Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder (eds.), Essential Readings in World Politics (1st or 2d edition). Norton

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

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

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

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Lecture 1: Overview of the course (August 31)

Part I: Power and Politics

Lecture 2: Politics, Power and Human Interaction (September 2)

Section 1 (September 4): Theory of Games

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

Lecture 3: The Microstructure of Power (September 9)

Section 2 (September 11): The Problem of Collective Action.

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

Lecture 4: Game Theory and Strategic Interaction (September 14)

Lecture 5: Public Goods and the Problem of Collective Action (September 16)

Section 3 (September 18): Principles in 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

Lecture 6: Deliberation, Reform and Getting Things Right (September 21)

Part II. Violence and Politics

Section 4 (September 25):

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.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/, Volume 2 (The National Socialist Movement), Chapter V: Philosophy and Organization.

C. Radical Islamism:

Herf, J. "What is old and what is new in the terrorism of Islamic Fundamentalism?"
<http://www.bu.edu/partisanreview/archive/2002/1/herf.html>

World Islamic Front (Osama bin Laden [aka Shaykh Usamah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Ladin] et al.), "Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders"
Various web sites, search using title.

Lecture 7: War and Revolution (September 23)

Lecture 8: The Shadow of Destruction (September 28)

Lecture 9: Rule of Law (September 30)

Section 5 (October 2): 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 title.

Lecture 10. Self-limiting Social Movements (October 5)

MIDTERM (Parts I and II) October 7

Part III: Political Systems

Section 6 (October 9): 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 Research Port

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

Lecture 11. State and Nation (October 12)

Lecture 12. State and Democracy (October 14)

Section 7 (October 16): 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.

Lecture 13. Constitutional Democracy (October 19)

Lecture 14. Social Context of Democracy (October 21)

Section 8 (October 23): 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.)

Lecture 15: The Global System of Power (October 26)

Lecture 16: Liberalism against Realism (October 28)

Part IV: Politics and History

Section 9 (October 30): Politics and History

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>

Lecture 17: Theories of History (November 2)

Lecture 18: Modernity in Stages (November 4)

Section 10 (November 6): Issue 1: The Economy

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).

Gilpin in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 289-96 (1st ed.) or pp. 403-9 (2d. ed.)

MIDTERM II (Parts III and IV) November 9

Part V: Political Issues

Lecture 19: State and Market (November 11)

Section 11 (November 13): Issue 2 -- The Environment

Garrett Hardin “The Tragedy of the Commons” (1968)

**“The Language of Ecology”
“Limits to Growth”** all at <http://dieoff.org>

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

Julian Simon, “More People, Greater Wealth, More Resources, Healthier Environment”
Economic Affairs (April 1994) available at www.juliansimon.com

Lecture 20: Controversies about Markets (November 16)

Lecture 21: Green Politics (November 18)

Section 12 (November 20): Issue 3: Human 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

Richard Falk, “A Half Century of Human Rights,” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 52.3 (1998): 255-73, via Research Port (on EBSCO, Academic Search Premier database)

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

Sen, in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 456-60 (1st ed.) or pp. 477-80 (2d. ed.).

Lecture 22: Scarcity, Limits and Tragedy (November 23)

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 25, 27

Lecture 23: Sustainable Development (November 30)

Lecture 24: Human Rights History (December 2)

Section 13 (December 4): Issue 3 -- Clash of Civilizations?

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

Lecture 25: Human Rights Debates (December 7)

Lecture 26: A New World Order? (December 9)

Section 14 (December 11): Issue 4 -- A New World Order?

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.)

**Marc Plattner, "Making Sense of the EU: Competing Goals, Conflicting Perspectives,"
Journal of Democracy, 14.4 (2003): 42-56, via Research Port**

FINAL EXAM: December 16, 1:30-3:30 PM