

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**Department of Political Science  
Syllabus—Political Science 1 Fall 2005**

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**Political Science 1**

**Introduction to the Study of Politics**

Political Science is the systematic study of politics and political life. In this introduction to the discipline we will study core concepts and traditional approaches to fundamental political questions, including the nature of political authority and political rights, the relationship between power and values and between self-interest and the common good, variation in the role and meaning of government, the origins and dynamics of political institutions, and the nature of international politics. Substantial consideration will be given to contributions by classical political thinkers as well as contemporary political scientists. Attention will also be paid to how systematic study of politics can deepen our understanding of complex public policy questions.

The course is divided into three parts of unequal length. The first part of the course is the longest and will last until the mid-term examination. Its focus will be on the political philosophies and theories of some of the greatest thinkers in the Western intellectual tradition. My lectures will assist you in your reading of these classic texts, identifying problems, themes, theories, and arguments, examining how different authors' ideas relate to one another, and highlighting their significance for understanding contemporary politics. In weekly discussion sections you will be asked to hold these texts to high standards of precision. You will be helped to evaluate them as explanations for how politics works, and provided with opportunities to do some political philosophy of your own.

In the next four weeks of the course we will study exemplar articles drawn from each of the four most prominent subfields of political science: comparative politics, international politics, political theory, and American politics. These lectures, and the readings assigned for them, will introduce you to the broad range of scholarship produced by political scientists. In our consideration of these studies we will examine their relationship to current trends in the subfield from which they are drawn and to the larger philosophical, conceptual, and methodological issues studied in the first portion of the course.

In the third section of the course, we will focus (briefly) on the meaning of public policy analysis and debates, especially in a democracy such as the United States. Lectures and readings will be designed to provide you with analytic categories and ideas to consider as you prepare your paper for the course. These papers will be written on the political philosophical commitments raised, exposed, or challenged by James P. Gray in his important book on drugs as a public policy problem in the United States--Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It by James P. Gray. The short paper you will write for Political Science 1 will be a response to the argument and recommendations of this book by drawing on the philosophical and analytic materials studied in the course. Soon after the mid-term examination a hand-out with detailed information concerning the paper will be distributed. Since the paper will deal directly with the Gray book, students are strongly advised to read most if not all of Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed between the midterm examination and the Thanksgiving break. Each student will be expected to work with his/her teaching assistant in the development of the paper. My lectures during the last portion of the course will focus on tools developed by political scientists to help understand the relationship between politics and the policy-making and policy-implementing process. Papers will be due at 4 PM on the last day of classes—December 7. Teaching assistants will be authorized to agree to extensions in return for a reduction in grade.

In addition to the mid-term examination and the paper, each student will take a final examination. Examinations will include both multiple choice and essay questions. Course grades will be computed roughly as follows:

Mid-term Examination:	20%
Final Examination	30%
Paper	30%
Contribution to Discussion Section:	20%

Most of your reading is found in the following books required for purchase. They are to be found in the University of Pennsylvania Bookstore.

Steven M. Cahn, Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005).

James P. Gray, Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001).

Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, The Federalist, Modern Library College Edition.

Additional required readings are posted on the Blackboard site for this course and are marked in this syllabus with an asterisk (\*).

### **SCHEDULE OF THE COURSE**

**September 7:** Introductory lecture: “Seeing Politically, a Biblical Example”

#### **CLASSICS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

**September 12 and 14:** Plato, The Republic, Cahn reader, pp. 31-129; and concluding “Myth of Er”  
<http://www.davidson.edu/academic/classics/neumann/CLA350/ErMyth.html>

**September 19:** Aristotle, The Politics, Cahn reader, pp. 133-169.

**September 21:** Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, Cahn reader, 173-184;  
Niccolo Machiavelli, Cahn reader, pp. 188-202.

**September 26:** Niccolo Machiavelli, The Discourses, Cahn reader, pp. 202-213.

**September 28:** Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Cahn reader, pp. 217-231.

**October 3:** Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Cahn 231-241; John Locke, Second Treatise of Government, Cahn reader, pp. 299-328.

**October 5:** *Jewish New Year/Rosh Hashanah* Class to be rescheduled, Time and Place to Be Announced: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Cahn reader, pp. 278--293.

**October 10:** Jean-Jacques Rousseau, On the Social Contract, Cahn reader, pp. 293-321.

**October 12:** The Federalist, Declaration of Independence, pp. 619-622; Washington’s Letter of Transmittal and the Constitution of the United States, 585-604; Federalist papers 1 and 2.

**October 17 (fall break):**

**October 19:** The Federalist, Federalist papers 6, 10, 15, 51, 85.

**October 24:** Karl Marx, “Estranged Labor,” Cahn reader, pp. 410-417; “The German Ideology,” Cahn reader 417-423;

**October 26:** Manifesto of the Communist Party, Cahn reader, pp. 423-434

**October 31:** MID-TERM EXAMINATION

## FOUR SUBFIELDS OF CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Comparative Politics

#### **November 2: Does Islam inhibit democracy and women's rights?**

\*Daniela Donno and Bruce Russett, "Islam, Authoritarianism, and Female Empowerment: What Are the Linkages?" World Politics, Vol. 56, no.4 (July 2004) pp. 582-607.

#### **November 7: Does the grant of political autonomy prevent regional separatism?**

\*Lustick, Ian S. and Dan Miodownik and Roy J. Eidelson (2004). "Secessionism in Multicultural States: Does Sharing Power Prevent or Encourage It?" American Political Science Review, Vol. 98 (2): pp. 209-229.

### International Politics

#### **November 9: Why Vietnam, Why Iraq?**

\*Andrew Mack, "Why Big Nations Lose Small Wars: The Politics of Asymmetric Conflict," World Politics Vol. XXVII, no. 2 (January 1975) pp. 175-200.

#### **November 14: Is the world becoming a political community?**

\*Ronnie D. Lipschutz, "Reconstructing World Politics: The Emergence of Global Civil Society," Millennium, Vol. 21, no. 3 (1992) pp. 389-420.

### Political Theory

#### **November 16: How can freedom of choice be possible?**

\*Nancy Hirschmann, "Eastern Veiling, Western Feminism, and the Problem of Free Agency" Constellations, Vol. 5, no. 3 (1998) pp. 345-368.

### American Politics

#### **November 21: What explains variation in amounts of political participation in American politics?**

\*R. Douglas Arnold, The Logic of Congressional Action (1991) pp. 3-16.

\*Steven Rosenstone and John Mark Hansen, Participation, Mobilization, and Democracy in America (1993) Conclusion.

**November 23: Original Meanings and Original Intent at the Constitutional Convention**

\* David Brian Robertson, "Madison's Opponents and Constitutional Design," American Political Science Review, Vol. 99, no. 2 (May 2005) pp. 225-244.

DILEMMAS AND TECHNIQUES OF PUBLIC POLICY

**November 28: Facts and Values in Public Policy**

\*Woodrow Wilson, "The Study of Administration," Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 2, no. 1 (June 1887).

**November 30:**

\*David E. Lilienthal, "Planning and Planners," Chapter 18 in TVA: Democracy on the March (1944).

\*Charles E. Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through," Public Administration Review, Vol. 19 (Spring 1959) pp. 79-88.

**December 5: The Intelligence of Democracy in Historical Context**

\*Thomas R. Hietala, "Texas, the Black Peril, and Alternatives to Abolitionism," in Manifest Design: Anxious Aggrandizement in Late Jacksonian America (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985) pp. 10-54.

**December 7: Is a Science of Politics Possible?**

No Assigned Reading.