

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**Department of Political Science
Syllabus—Political Science 1 Spring 2004**

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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 middle of April. 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—April 21. 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.

Jene M. Porter (ed.) Classics in Political Philosophy (Prentice Hall: 2000) Third Edition

James P. Gray, Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It, 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

January 12: Introductory lecture: “Seeing Politically, a Biblical Example”

CLASSICS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

January 14 and 21: Plato, The Republic, Porter reader, pp. 2-100.

January 26: Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, pp. 102-104; and The Politics, Porter reader, pp. 120-173.

January 28: Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince, Porter reader, pp. 226-263.

February 2: Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Discourses (Selections at Black Board).

February 4: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Porter reader, pp. 264-295.

February 9: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Porter reader, pp. 299-328.

February 11: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Discourse on the Origin and Foundation of Inequality among Men, Porter reader, pp. 381-406.

February 16: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, On the Social Contract, Porter reader, pp. 407-436.

February 18: 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.

February 23: The Federalist, Federalist papers 6, 10, 15, 51, 85.

February 25: Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto and other writings, Porter reader, pp. 544-557; 562-563; 568-588;
*two page conclusion to the Manifesto

March 1: REVIEW

March 3: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

FOUR SUBFIELDS OF CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL SCIENCE

Comparative Politics

March 15: How are the effects of political institutions inherited?

*Philip G. Roeder, "Soviet Federalism and Ethnic Mobilization," World Politics 43 (January 1991), pp. 196-232.

March 17: Why are there no Great Powers in the Middle East?

*Ian S. Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective," International Organization, Vol. 51, no. 4 (Autumn 1997) pp.653-83.

International Politics

March 22: When Does Nationalism Cause War?

*Stephen van Evera, "Hypotheses on Nationalism and War," International Security, Vol. 18, no. 4 (Spring 1994) pp. 5-39.

March 24: 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

March 29: Should we treat political life as naturally in equilibrium or not?

*James B. Murphy, "Rational Choice Theory as Social Physics," in The Rational Choice Controversy: Economic Models of Politics Reconsidered, Jeffrey Friedman (ed.), Yale Press, 1996.

March 31: Can a Woman Wear a Chador and Be Free?

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

April 5: 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.

April 7: What are Political Opinions and How Can They Be Measured?

*Katherine Tate, "Black Opinion on the Legitimacy of Racial Redistricting and Minority-Majority Districts," American Political Science Review, Vol. 97, no. 1 (February 2003) pp. 45-56.

DILEMMAS AND TECHNIQUES OF PUBLIC POLICY

April 12: Facts and Values in Public Policy

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

April 14: Plans vs. Political Markets

*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.

April 19: 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.

April 21: Is a Science of Politics Possible?

No Assigned Reading.