

## INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Peter Rutland; office PAC 203; tel. 2483; email: prutland@wesleyan.edu  
office hours PAC 203 Tuesday, 10.00-12.00, Friday 11.00-12.00.

**T.A.s:** Aneesa Sayall [asayall], Susanna Morrison [slmorrison]

This course is an introduction to the main concepts and approaches in the four sub-fields of political science:

- 1) Political theory (weeks 2-3, 5-7)
- 2) Comparative politics (weeks 1-3, 5-9, 11-12)
- 3) American politics (weeks 5, 8, 13)
- 4) International relations (weeks 4, 10, 11)

**ASSESSMENT:** Out of 100 points, as follows:

- 1) Three short papers, 2-3 pages in length, to be submitted in class on February 23, April 2 and April 23. (2 points per day penalty for late submission.) [15 points each]
- 2) Mid term on March 9, [20 points]
- 3) Final on Wednesday May 16, 9.00 am [20 points]
- 3) Occasional quizzes and class participation. Students must complete each week's required reading. Attendance at an out-of-class lecture and submission of a 1-2 page report may earn 2-3 extra points. [15 points]

Failure to attend three classes without prior notification to the instructor will be considered a withdrawal from the class and will result in a failing grade.

All the readings, apart from those in books to be purchased, are available in electronic form on the Pols 101 Blackboard site, under Course Materials.

You are expected to read or at least look through all the assigned readings each week. They are listed in roughly descending order of importance. The top three readings are usually essential.

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* is available online at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

### BOOKS

Recommended for purchase:

Robert Dahl	<i>Polyarchy</i> (Yale University Press, 1972)
Alexis de Tocqueville	<i>Democracy in America</i> (trans. Richard Heffner, Signet, 2001)
Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (Signet Reprint, 1998)
George Orwell	<i>1984</i> (Signet Reissue 1990)
Sam Huntington <i>et al</i>	<i>The Clash of Civilizations? The Debate</i> (Foreign Affairs, 1996)
Steven Hill	<i>10 Steps to Repair American Democracy</i> (Polipoint Press, 2006)
Allister Sparks	<i>Tomorrow is Another Country The Inside Story of South Africa's Road to Change</i> (University of Chicago Press, 1996)

## WEB RESOURCES

Wikipedia.org Uneven in depth and quality of coverage, but often interesting.

*Encyclopedia Britannica* (free access through Olin Reference, under the 'Other' section on the Olin site)

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

*Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (free access through Olin Reference)

### Sites with multiple links to political science sources:

[www.rvc.cc.il.us/faclink/pruckman/PSLinks.htm](http://www.rvc.cc.il.us/faclink/pruckman/PSLinks.htm)

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/polisci.html>

<http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/>

<http://www.constitution.org/liberlib.htm>

A library of historical texts relating to constitutions, rule of law, liberty, etc.

### Hard copy reference works (Olin library first floor) :

*Encyclopedia of Democracy* JC423 .E53 1995

*International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* H41 .I58 2001

*Blackwell dictionary of political science* JA61 .B43 1999

*The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Thought* JA61 .B57 1987

## WEEK 1

## INTRODUCTION

Jan 24-26

What is politics? What can we learn about it from other primates?

Frans B.M. de Waal *Chimpanzee Politics* (1998) pp. 82-87, 205-09

Frans B.M. De Waal 'We're all Machiavellians,' *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 23 Sep. 05

Temple Grandin 'Hey hey, we're the monkeys,' *New York Times*, 9 Oct. 2005

## WEEK 2

## THE ORIGINS OF DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY

Jan 29-Feb 2

What is meant by the democracy and freedom, in both their ancient and modern versions?

Under what conditions do political systems based on democracy and freedom come into being?

What is the place for women in Aristotle, or Constant? What are human rights?

Fred Miller 'Aristotle's political theory,' *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Aristotle *Politics* (350 BC) book 4: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>

Benjamin Constant *The Liberty of the Ancients Compared to That of the Moderns* (1816)

Wikipedia.org 'Human Rights'

### WEEK 3

### THE STATE

Feb 5-9

What is the state? What does it do that other institutions do not do? What is law?  
Why should one obey the law? When is it legitimate to rebel? Why are some states and rulers  
'legitimate' and others not so?

Max Weber	<i>Politics as a Vocation</i> (1919) extracts
Wikipedia.org	'State,' 'Nation state'
Sharon Lloyd	'Hobbes' moral and political theory,' <i>Stanford Encyclop. of Philosophy</i>
Cary Nederman	'Niccolo Machiavelli,' esp. section 2, <i>Stanford Encyclop. of Philosophy</i>
Jonathan Mahler	'Formerly known as Prince,' <i>New York Times</i> , 3 Sept. 2000
Michael Mann	'The autonomous power of the state,' in John B. Hall (ed), <i>States in History</i> (1987) pp. 109-36
'Hobbesian world'	Newspaper clippings on Sierra Leone, Brazil, Haiti, and Darfur.
Video clip	<i>Men with Guns</i>

### WEEK 4

### THE STATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Feb 12-16

An introduction to the key concepts of international relations theory: the nation-state; the Westphalian system; the security dilemma; the balance of power; Realist vs. Liberal theories of the international system; the concept of 'just war.'

Robert Jackson & Georg Sorensen	'Why study IR?' <i>Introduction to International Relations</i> (2003) ch. 1
Dan Philpott	'Sovereignty,' <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
Brian Orend	'War,' <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
Hans Morgenthau	'Six principles of political realism,' in <i>Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace</i> (1978), pp. 4-15

### FIRST ASSIGNMENT to be submitted in class on February 23

Write a 2-3 page report in which you select one political problem in the contemporary world and try to explain what is happening within the framework of one of the concepts discussed in the course so far: (democracy, the state, the balance of power, etc.). Give some thought to what kinds of evidence you would need to gather to apply the concept to the case.

### WEEK 5

### DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

Feb 19-23

What is *special* about the American political system? Why did it first arise in America, and not somewhere else? Can it serve as a model for the rest of the world?  
According to Thoreau, under what circumstances is it right to disobey the law, to rebel?

Alexis de Tocqueville	<i>Democracy in America</i> (1835) The U.S. Constitution, The Gettysburg Address
James Madison	<i>The Federalist Papers</i> no. 8, 10 (1787) <a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html">http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html</a>
Daniel Elazar	'To secure the blessings of liberty: Liberty and American federalism'
Seymour M. Lipset	'Still the exceptional nation?," <i>Hoover Digest</i> , 2000, no. 2. <a href="http://www.hooverdigest.org/002/lipset.html">http://www.hooverdigest.org/002/lipset.html</a>
Henry David Thoreau	'Civil disobedience' (1849)

## WEEK 6

Feb 26-Mar 2

## PLURALISM

How has the theory and practice of democracy evolved since de Tocqueville's time? How and why did the concept of the 'people' expand to include all males, women and African-Americans? What is the relationship between democracy and capitalism?

Robert Dahl	<i>Polyarchy</i> (1971)
John E. Mueller	<i>Capitalism, Democracy and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery</i> pp. 243-53
Robert Putnam	'Bowling alone: America's declining social capital,' <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Jan. 1995, vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 65-78
Robert A. Dahl	'On removing certain impediments to democracy in the U.S.,' <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> , vol. 92, no.1, spring, 1977 pp. 1-20
Amartya Sen	'Democracy as a universal value,' <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , vol. 10, no. 3, July 1999, pp. 3-17

## WEEK 7

Mar 5-9

## THE MARXIST CHALLENGE

Marx's radical critique of capitalism was embedded in a sweeping and ambitious theory of history. Marxism was fatally weakened by the collapse of the Soviet Union but it continues to provide a framework for the critique of capitalism into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (1848)
Phil Gasper	'The meaning of the manifesto,' <i>Socialist Worker</i> , 18 November 2005
Karl Marx	'The future results of the British rule in India' (1853)
Vladimir Lenin	<i>Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism</i> (1916) chapter 7 only.
Andre Gunder Frank	<i>The Development of Underdevelopment</i> (1966)
Video clip	<i>Island of Flowers</i>

March 9

MID-TERM EXAM in class

March 12-23

SPRING BREAK

## WEEK 8

Mar 26-30

## RATIONAL ACTOR MODELS

Economic thinking has been imported into models of political behavior, especially in trying to understand the 'collective action' problem. It brings some important insights into electoral behavior (Downs); the dynamics of organized groups (Olson); and the lack of international cooperation in the face of global ecological problems (Hardin).

Russell Hardin	'The free rider problem,' <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
Garrett Hardin	'The Tragedy of the Commons' (1968)
Wikipedia	Public good, Tragedy of the Commons, Prisoner's dilemma
Anthony Downs	<i>An Economic Theory of Democracy</i> (1958) ch. 8.
Mancur Olson	<i>The Logic of Collective Action</i> (1971) Introduction
Gordon Tullock	'Autocracy,' in P. Bernhole (ed) <i>Economic Imperialism</i> (1987) p365-81
Joe Oppenheimer	<i>The Laws of Politics</i> (2005)

## SECOND ASSIGNMENT to be submitted in class on April 2

Write a 2-3 page report in which you select ONE of the rational choice concepts discussed in Week 8 and apply it to a political puzzle or conflict of your choosing

### WEEK 9 TOTALITARIAN AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Apr 2-6

How do totalitarian regimes work? What do they tell us about the human condition?  
What is the difference between totalitarian regimes and authoritarian regimes? (Holmes)  
Both regimes can be seen as responses to the challenge of modernization (Huntington).  
Did the 'age of ideology' end with the end of the Cold War? (Fukuyama).

George Orwell	<i>1984</i> (1948)
Wikipedia	Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism
Leslie Holmes	'Totalitarianism,' <i>International Encyc. of Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</i>
Samuel P. Huntington	<i>Political Order in Changing Societies</i> (1971) pp. 1-58
Francis Fukuyama	'The end of history,' <i>National Interest</i> , summer 1989
Karl Popper	<i>The Open Society and Its Enemies Volume 1: The Spell of Plato</i> , ch. 4.
Video clip	<i>Uncle Saddam</i>

### WEEK 10 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AFTER THE COLD WAR

Apr 9-13

What happened to Realism and balance of power theory in the wake of the Cold War?  
What is 'democratic peace' theory? In the 1990s, US foreign policy focused on humanitarian interventions and foreign aid. Are these always a good idea? What is "soft power" (Nye)?

John Mearsheimer	'Why we will soon miss the Cold War,' <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> , Aug. 1990
Steven G. Brooks & William Wohlforth	'American primacy,' <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , July 2002
Peter Rutland	'US foreign policy in turbulent times,' <i>Journal of American and Canadian Studies</i> (Tokyo), no. 21, March 2004, pp. 95-116
Joseph Nye	<i>The Paradox of American Power</i> (2002), pp. 4-17
[Newspaper articles]	<i>US foreign policy in the 1990s</i>
Thomas Schwartz	'The myth of democratic pacifism,' <i>Hoover Digest</i> , no. 2, 1999
Video clips	<i>Wag the Dog, Black Hawk Down</i>

### WEEK 11 POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE 'CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS'

Apr 16-20

In 1993 Huntington predicted a wave of wars between rival 'civilizations.' Is his theory valid?  
How does Islam relate to 9/11 and the war on terror? What role does Islam play in Europe?

Samuel Huntington <i>et al</i>	<i>The Clash of Civilizations? The Debate</i> (1996)
Fareed Zakaria	'The politics of rage,' <i>Newsweek</i> , 15 Oct. 2001.
Robert Pape	'Dying to kill us,' <i>New York Times</i> , 22 Sept. 2003.
World Islamic Front	<i>Statement Urging Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders</i> (Feb. 1998)
Ladan & Roya Boroumand	'Terror, Islam and democracy,' <i>Jour. of Democracy</i> , Apr 02, v. 13 n. 2
Pippa Norris & Ronald Inglehart	<i>Islam and the West: Testing the Clash of Civilizations Hypothesis</i> 2002
Video clip	<i>Osama</i>

