

Introduction to Politics (POST 10)

Fall 2007

MWF 10-10:50

Avery 201

Lead Instructor: Sharon Snowiss

Scott Hall 206: office hours: MW 4:10-5:30 PM

607-3178

ssnowiss@pitzer.edu

Section Instructors Sharon Snowiss, Dana Ward, Nigel Boyle, and Tom Ilgen

Course Description

This team-taught course introduces students to the study of politics and its four main subdivisions, political philosophy, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations. We will examine concepts such as human nature, power, community, the state, citizenship, rights, authority, legitimacy, freedom, equality, democracy, ideology and justice. We will also study the ways different peoples, classes, cultures and nations organize themselves politically for common purposes and for addressing conflicts. Lectures and reading material address contemporary political issues ranging from our campus to national and global politics. The course is required of Political Studies concentrators but also serves as an appropriate general course for all other students interested in politics.

Normally, the class will meet two times each week for lectures and once each week in discussion section. Regular attendance is expected at the lectures and regular attendance and participation is expected in the discussion section. Students are responsible for all required readings. Required texts are available for purchase from Huntley Bookstore. The course will employ Sakai course software. Other course materials will be available via Sakai: <http://sakai.claremont.edu>. The readings are also on Ereserve at Honnold Library.

Course Content

The course is divided into four parts: (i) political concepts and theory, (ii) American politics, (iii) comparative politics and, (iv) global politics. In the first half of the course, we explore some of the concepts most important to the study of politics--power, human nature, community, nationality, the state, citizenship, rights, freedom, equality, ideology and justice. We examine how politics are organized and institutionalized in the United States. The American political system is often regarded as distinctive from other systems.

We explore the American system with this comparative hypothesis in mind. A midterm completes the first half of the course.

The second half of the course examines how political systems, particularly nation-states, are organized and discusses the tools for comparing these systems in different parts of the world. We examine in some detail a number of specific political systems. . The final section of the course treats international and global politics. We examine some basic theories of international relations, explore the causes and consequences of war, and look at the growing importance of economic and environmental issues as well as human rights in this era of globalization. We also look at the unique position of the United States as the world's sole superpower and the challengers and opportunities this role presents to American leaders and American democratic politics. A comprehensive final examination completes the course.

Course Requirements and Grades

Grades will be determined by student performance on weekly discussion papers (20%), on a midterm exam (20%), a research paper (20%), a final exam (30%), and class attendance and participation (10%). You are expected to come to each class session having read the assigned materials for the class and be prepared to comment on them. It is important to keep up with the readings both to benefit from the lectures and to help you write weekly 2 page discussion papers. These papers are due at the beginning of the Friday discussion section and late papers will not be accepted. The research paper will be a 7-10 page paper on the concept of power in analyzing politics. You will be given a more detailed assignment early in the semester. Power analysis can focus on any level of government from local to international. The research paper is due on Friday, November 21. The final exam will cover readings and lectures for the entire semester, but with a greater emphasis on the material after the midterm.

Current political events will play an important role in class discussions, papers, and exams. Each student is expected to read a daily newspaper. Good choices are the [Financial Times](#), [The New York Times](#), and the [Los Angeles Times](#). Set aside a half hour each day and develop the habit of reading a good newspaper. It will pay dividends in this course and in others.

Required Texts: (available in Huntley Bookstore)

James N. Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, 8th edition.

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*

A. Giddens, *Runaway World*

Course Schedule

Sept 5: INTRODUCTION: On Knowing the Political World

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 1, pp. 3-23.

PART I: Political Philosophy (Sharon Snowiss)

Sept 7: Nature of Politics and Power

Aristotle, *The Politics*, Bk.I (*Sakai*)
Arendt, *On Violence*, selections (*Sakai*)

Sept 10: Nature of Politics and Power

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chpts. 1,6, 15-18, 25-26 (*Sakai*)
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chpts. 10,11,13,17 (*Sakai*)
Dahl, "On Power" (*Sakai*)

Sept. 12: Discussion

Sept. 14-17: What is it all about? Regime Aims: Happiness, Justice, Freedom, Equality

Plato, *Republic*, Bk.I, Bk.II chpt. V (*Sakai*)
Aristotle, *The Politics*, Bk. III, chpts. 1-4, 9; Bk. VII, chpt 8 (*Sakai*)
Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (*Sakai*)
J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chpts. 1 & 2
Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, (*Sakai*)

Sept 19: Organization of Regimes: How are the aims implemented?

Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk. IV, chpts. 1-4 (*Sakai*)
Madison, Jay, Hamilton, *Federalist Papers*, # 1, 10, 48, (*Sakai*)
Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (optional: discussion) (*Sakai*)
Wallerstein, *The Construction of Peoplehood*, (*Sakai*) (optional: discussion)

Sept 21: Discussion

Sept 24: Individual versus Community

JS Mill, *On Liberty*, chpts. 3-5
Locke, Tolerant and Government (*Sakai*)
Confucius, *The Analects* (*Sakai*)
Le Guin, *Nine Lives* (*Sakai*)

Sept 26: Obligations and Rights

Bill of Rights (*Sakai*)
Declaration of Independence (*Sakai*)
Declaration of Rights of Man and of Citizen (*Sakai*)
The General Assembly of the UN, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*Sakai*)
Letter from Birmingham Jail, ML King (*Sakai*)
Vindication of the Rights of Women, Wollstonecraft (*Sakai*)
Weil, *The Need for Roots* (*Sakai*)

Sept 28: Discussion

Part II: American Politics (Dana Ward)

Oct 1: The U.S. Power Structure

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 9, pp. 225-243.
P. Bachrach and M. Baratz, "The Two Faces of Power." *APSR* v.56.pp. 947-52.
(*Sakai*)
J. Gaventa, "Power and Participation," in *Power and Powerlessness*. (*Sakai*)
G.W. Domhoff, *The Power Elite and the State*, chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1-28.
(*Sakai*).
M. Mann, Chapter 1, The Sources of Social Power, "Societies as Organized
Power Networks," pp. 1-33. (*Sakai*).

Oct 3: Belief Systems Research

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 2, pp. 25-49 and Chapter 4,
pp. 79-107.

Oct. 5 : Discussion

Oct. 8: Theories of Democracy

Federalist Papers, Nos. [10](#), [15](#), [16](#), [23](#), [47](#), [48](#), [49](#), [51](#), and [52](#). (*Sakai*)

Oct. 10: The U.S. Congress

B.A. Loomis, "Congressional Decentralization in Design and Evolution" (*Sakai*)

Oct. 12: Discussion

Oct. 15: The U.S. Presidency

B.A. Rockman, "The American Presidency in Comparative Perspective: Systems, Situations, and Leaders" (*Sakai*).

Oct. 17: The U.S. Electoral System

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 3, pp. 51-77.

L.S. Maisel, "The Development of the American Parties," (*Sakai*).

W. Flanigan and N. Zingale, *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, chapters 4 and 5 (*Sakai*)

Oct. 19 : Discussion

Fall Break

Oct. 24: U.S. Foreign Policy

E. Wittkopf, C.W. Kegley, Jr., James M. Scott, *American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process*, chapters 1-3, pp. 3-72. (*Sakai*).

Oct. 26 Midterm

Part III: Comparative Politics (Nigel Boyle)

Oct 29: Comparative Politics: ways of making comparisons

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chapter 5, pp. 109-135.

Oct 31: States & Nations

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chapter 13, pp. 343-377.

E. Gellner "Nations and Nationalism: definitions" (*Sakai*)

"Anthems" (*Sakai*)

Benedict Anderson "The Origins of National Consciousness" (*Sakai*)

Nov. 2: Discussion

Nov. 5: Capitalism, Imperialism, Globalization

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chapter 8, pp. 209-335.

Nov. 7: Political Institutions: Venezuela Case Study.

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 6, pp. 141-167, chapter 7, pp. 169-207 and chapter 14, pp. 393-435.
Documentary Film "The Revolution will not be televised"

Nov. 9: Discussion

Nov. 12 Regimes and Transitions: China Case Study

Deng Xiao Peng's Reforms, (*Sakai*)
Melanie Manion. "Politics in China" (*Sakai*)
Documentary Film: PBS "China in the Red"

Nov. 14: The Political Economy of Growth: Ireland, Botswana, and China

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chapter 10, pp. 261-289 and chapter 13 pp. 359-391. "Minding the Miracle" (Botswana) (*Sakai*)
"Botswana and Diamond-Dependent Development" (*Sakai*)

Nov. 16 : Discussion: Jihad versus McWorld: democracy, globalization and comparative politics

Benjamin Barber, *Jihad versus McWorld*, Introduction (2000 edition) (*Sakai*)
Benjamin Barber, "2001 Introduction: Terrorism's Challenge to Democracy" (*Sakai*)

Nov. 19: Jihad versus McWorld: democracy, globalization and comparative politics

Benjamin Barber, *Jihad versus McWorld*, Introduction (2000 edition) (*Sakai*)
Benjamin Barber, "2001 Introduction: Terrorism's Challenge to Democracy" (*Sakai*)

Research Paper is due November 21

PART IV: International Relations (Tom Ilgen)

Nov 21: Realism, Idealism and International Relations

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 11, pp. 275-305, and chapter 12, pp. 307-341.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 26: What is War and Why Does it Keep Happening?

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 12, pp. 307-341.
N. Ferguson, "Rethinking Power" (*Sakai*)
L. Freedman, "War" (*Sakai*)

Nov 28 : Unipolarity, Globalization, and the Future of Global Politics

J. Nye, "U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq" (*Sakai*)
R. Jervis, "The Compulsive Empire," (*Sakai*)
I. Wallerstein, "The Incredible Shrinking Eagle" (*Sakai*)

Nov 30: Discussion

Dec 3: The Nation-State and the Global Economy

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chapter 15, pp. 429-465.
R. Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," (*Sakai*)

Dec 5 Pax Americana and the Birth of the Global Economy

D. Balaam and M. Veseth, "International Trade" (*Sakai*)
D. Balaam and M. Veseth, "The International Monetary System," (*Sakai*)

Dec 7: Discussion

Globalization: Good or Evil? Giddens, *Runaway World* (entire)

Dec 10: Global Governance: Human Rights

S. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" (*Sakai*)
M. Keck and K. Sikkink, "Transnational Activist Networks," (*Sakai*)

Dec 12: Global Governance: The Commons

G. Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," (*Sakai*)
J. Simon, "The Infinite Supply of Natural Resources," (*Sakai*)
T. Homer-Dixon, "Cornucopians and Neo-Malthusians," (*Sakai*)

Dec 14: Final Thoughts and Review

Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, Chapter 16, pp. 467-480.

Final Exam, 9 a.m. Monday, December 17.

