

Political Science 190: The Scope of Political Science Spring 2007

Professor Barry S. Rundquist

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Class time: M W 10-10:50

Classroom: 140 BSB

Teaching Assistants: Shannon Nelson and J French Office Hours: TBA

Rundquist's office: 1122 C BSB Office Hours: TBA

This course is designed to introduce some of the ways of understanding politics. Political scientists and scholars from other academic disciplines use a variety of theoretical and research tools to try to understand how politics relates to people and society. We will pay special attention to the legal-institutional, social-economic, and cultural-psychological dimensions of politics. The course encourages you to read and think about some of the classic arguments and studies of these topics. You will learn that the scope of politics includes subjects that have been treated separately in the disciplines of history, sociology, economics, anthropology and psychology and thus come to appreciate why Aristotle long ago described political science as the "most comprehensive master science." The course also encourages you to learn how contemporary political scientists go about obtaining answers to questions about politics. A goal of the course is to prepare students to take more advanced substantive and methodological courses in the political science department and we will do this by describing the interests and typical course offerings of the current faculty.

POLS 190 is divided into three main parts: Markets and Power, Law and Institutions, and Culture and Identity. In addition there is an introduction to the course and a concluding section. Lectures will normally take place on Monday and Wednesday of each week. A discussion section will meet on Friday.

Required readings have been assembled in a packet that should be purchased in class during the first week. Some of the readings provide conceptual underpinnings for the study of politics; some are from great thinkers in political philosophy; others provide examples of how contemporary social scientists study questions about political phenomena. Many of the readings are challenging and mastering them typically will require serious and sustained effort on all of our parts. The lectures will cover some but not all aspects of the readings. Additional material not in the readings may also be covered in the lectures. Attendance at lectures is mandatory and you must read the material in your packet in order to do well in the course. You are also required to attend and participate in discussion sections. Discussion sections are designed to allow you to delve more deeply into issues raised in the course and to ask questions about relationships between the various readings and the lectures.

Requirements

All students will be required to write **three short (5-7 page double-spaced typed) papers** on topics that will be announced well before the dates on which they are due. This requirement is the political science department's contribution to UIC's program for improving students' ability to write papers in their major field of study. The due date for each paper will be the Friday (i.e. discussion section) immediately following the last lecture for each of the three main substantive sections of the course (dates are in the course schedule). You will not be adequately prepared to write these papers unless you complete all of the required reading and attend class. Papers will be graded by teaching assistants under my supervision and each will constitute **25 percent** of your grade (**75 percent** altogether). A major consideration in grading each paper will be the extent to which you consider *all eight* of the readings assigned for the relevant section of the course. Papers turned in late will (in the absence of a legitimate excuse) have their grade lowered by *one letter grade* for each day they are late.

Class and discussion section attendance will be graded and will count for **10%** of your course grade (You will get one point for each class that you attend and your grade for attendance will be based on how you rank in total attendance points relative to others in the class). To encourage you to review the readings for each section as you prepare to write your papers, there *may be* short **quizzes** (worth from **2.5** to 5 percent each) near the end of each of the three major sections of the course. There will also be a **final examination** (worth **7.5 percent**). The purpose of the *final exam* is to get you to think about inter-relationships between the legal-institutional, social-economic, and cultural-psychological dimensions of political life. *Study questions* for each quiz and the final will be available on Blackboard.

Since so much of your grade in POLS 190 is based on the written papers, there may be a temptation to rely on somebody else's work. It is important to note that UIC and the Political Science Department have policies on **plagiarism**. In meeting the writing requirements in POLS 190, students should abide by these policies. As quoted from the University's Handbook for Undergraduate Studies, UIC's policy is as follows:

UIC's Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or in part, without proper acknowledgment that it is someone else's.

Copying of any source in whole or in part with only minor changes in wording or syntax even with acknowledgment.

Submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency.

Paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgment.

Plagiarism, like other forms of academic dishonesty, is always a serious matter. If an instructor finds that a student has plagiarized, the appropriate penalty is at the instructor's

discretion. Actions taken by the instructor do not preclude the College or the university taking further punitive action including dismissal from the University.

To summarize, grades in POLS 190 will be based on four things:

Papers	75%
Participation	10%
Quizzes and Final Exam	15%

Tentative Schedule for Spring 2007

I Introduction. Overview, Course Mechanics, and Some Key Concepts (Week 1)

Jan 15. Martin Luther King Day. No class.

Jan 17. Lecture 1. Introductions.

What is politics? What is political science? What does political science try to do? The *flow chart* and how it frames the three major topics. What's political, what's not? Why? Power and Conflict. Approaches to studying politics.

Conflict and *contestable ideas*. Some of the issues we will consider are:

- 1) Should individual freedom or cooperation be the basis of a political economy?
- 2) What should be the relative importance of markets and governments in a political economy?
- 3) Should societal resources be redistributed to increase social equality or should they be unequally distributed?
- 4) Are political parties, candidate-centered elections, electoral politics, or government bureaucracy more likely to produce policy change?
- 5) What is the role of cultural phenomena like the protestant ethic, the Jacksonian work ethic, the existence of the frontier in American history, post-materialism, and racism in American society and politics?
- 6) How can we tell whether or not these ideas are true?

Jan 19. First discussion section.

Jan 22. Lecture 2. Policy = (f) Policy Preferences and Institutional Structures. Definitions and Politics and Policy. Examples. Definitions of political science, markets, institutions, policy, political economy, status quo and change. *Cui Bono*. Reciprocal causation.
The diagram.

II Political Economy: Power and Markets (Weeks 2 thru 6)

Jan 24. Lecture 3. Introduction to Power and Markets and Why markets: For today have read Milton Friedman and Rose Friedman, “The Power of Markets.” from *Free to Choose*, Hartcourt, Brace, and Janaovich, 1980, pp. 9-37.

Jan 26. Second discussion section.

Jan. 29 Lecture 4. Why Markets: Pros: Friedman (cont’d). Have read Lindblom Chapter 3. Start on the origins of capitalism. Have read Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, Revron Press, 1957, Chs.4-6.

Jan. 31. Lecture 5. Markets: (cont’d). Polanyi.

Feb 2 Third Discussion Section

Feb 5 Lecture 6. Markets: Cons. For today, have read Charles Wolf, “Market Failure,” *Markets or Governments*, MIT Press, 1990, pp. 20-29 and Charles Lindblom, “The Limited Competence of Markets,” Chapter 6 in *Politics and Markets*.

Feb. 7.
Lecture 7. Why
Government: Pros.

Have read Charles
Lindblom,
Friedman and
Friedman.

Politics and Markets, Chapters 2 and re-read Adam Smith quote on pp. 28-29 in

Feb. 9. *Fourth Discussion Section.*

Feb. 12. Lecture 8. Government cons Have read Lindblom
Chapter 5 and Robert Michels, “Democracy and the Iron Law of Oligarchy” in
Political Parties, Free Press, 1949, Ch. 2.

Feb. 14. Lecture 9. Democratic governments and inequality. Benjamin
Page and James Simmons *What Government Can Do?*, Chapter 3,” and
Friedrich A. Hayek, “Equality, Value, and Merit,” from *The Constitution of*
Liberty, 1960

Feb. 16. *Fifth Discussion Section.*

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Chapters 10, 12, 13 and 14 in *Politics and Markets*.

FIRST PAPER DUE

Feb. 21. Lecture 11. Summary of power and markets and transition to Law and Institutions. Have read John Mueller, *Capitalism and Democracy: Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery* Ch 9, "Democracy and Capitalism.

Feb. 23. Sixth discussion section.

III Law and Institutions (Weeks 7 thru 11)

Feb. 26. Lecture 12. Introduction to Law and Institutions. (What questions do we ask? What types of institutions are there?) Competitive Democratic Politics: Electoral Institutions. Have read Robert Dahl, *On Democracy*, Yale University Press, 1998, Chapter 8 (pp. 83-99) and pp. 113-114 and Jerrold G. Rusk, "Who is Allowed to Vote: Suffrage and Election Laws," in *A Statistical History of the U.S. Electorate*, 2002, Chapter 2.

Feb. 28. Lecture 13. Why abstain? Lyn Ragsdale and Jerrold Rusk, "Who are Non-voters: Profiles from the 1990 Senate Elections," *American Journal of Political Science*, 199 , pp. 721-726, 743-746.

March 2. Seventh discussion section

March 5. Lecture 14. Competitive Democratic Politics: How Electoral Control works. Have read David Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, Yale, 1974, pp. 11-78.

March 7. Lecture 15. Competitive Democratic Politics: How Parties work. Have read John Aldrich, *Why Parties?* Chapter 1, Pp. 3-27.

March 9. Eighth discussion section.

March 12. Lecture 16. Are parties the problem? Have read Morris Fiorina, “Parties, Participation, and Representation: Old Theories Face New Realities,” in *Political Science: State of the Discipline*, APSA, 2002; and David R Mayhew, “Actions in the Public Sphere,” in Paul Quirk and Sarah Binder, Editors, *American Institutions of Democracy: The Legislative Branch*, (2005), pp. 63 and 91-98.

March 14. Lecture 17. How federalism works. Have read Paul Peterson, *The Price of Federalism*, Chapter 8.

March 16. Ninth discussion section.

March 19. Lecture 18. Bureaucratic Politics. Have read *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, translated by Gerth and Mills, Galaxy 1958, pp. 196-245.

March 21. Lecture 19. American Federal Bureaucracy. Daniel Carpenter, “The Evolution of National Bureaucracy in the United States,” in Joel Aberbach and Mark Peterson, Editors, *American Institutions of Democracy: The Executive Branch* (2005), pp 64-66; and Barry R Weingast, “Caught in the Middle: The President, Congress and the Political Bureaucratic System.” in Joel Aberbach and Mark Peterson, Editors, *American Institutions of Democracy: The Executive Branch* (2005), pp. 333-338.

March 23. Tenth discussion session.

SECOND PAPER DUE

MARCH 26. SPRING BREAK

MARCH 28. SPRING BREAK.

MARCH 30. SPRING BREAK.

April 2. Lecture 20. Courts and Inter-Institutional Competition. Have read John A. Ferejohn, "Judicializing Politics, Politicizing Law", *Hoover Digest*, 2003.

April 4. Lecture 21. Summary of Law and Institutions and Introduction to Culture and Identity.

April 6. Eleventh discussion period.

IV. Culture and Identity (Week 12 to 14)

April 9. Lecture 22. Religion and Capitalism. Have read Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Chapters 1, 2, and 5 and Felicia Lee, "Research Around the World Links Religion and Capitalism," *NYT*, January 31, 2004.

April 11. Lecture 23. Work and political culture. Have read Judith Shklar, *American Citizenship*, Chapter 2.

April 13. Twelfth discussion section.

April 16. Lecture 24. The Frontier? Have read Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Frontier in American History*, Forward and Chapter ---

April 18. Lecture 25. Political Community and social capital. Have read: Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Chapters 1, 15, and 22 .

April 20. Lecture 26. Thirteenth discussion session.

April 23. Lecture 27. The Collective Action Problem. Have read Mancur Olson, Jr. "Collective Action, The Logic," from *Classic Readings in American Politics*, pp. 225-240.

April 25. Lecture 28. Race, Racism, the City, and White power. Ways of doing political science, and Overview of course. Have read Larry Bennett and Adolph Reed, Jr. "The New Face of Urban Renewal: The Near North Redevelopment Initiative and the Cabrini-Green Neighborhood," From Adolph Reed, Editor, *Without Justice for All*, 1999.

April 27. Fourteenth discussion section.

April 30. Lecture 29. World Values Project. Have read Ronald Inglehart and Paul Abramson, "Economic Security and Value Change," APSR

THIRD PAPER DUE

V. Conclusion

May 2. Lecture 30. Concluding observations on the scope of political science

May 4. *Fourteenth discussion section.* **A LITTLE FINAL QUIZ**

IMPORTANT DATES IN POLS 190:

1/17 FIRST CLASS.

2/19 FIRST PAPER DUE

3/23 SECOND PAPER DUE

3/26-3/30 SPRING BREAK

4/30 THIRD PAPER DUE

5/2 LAST LECTURE

5/4 LAST DISCUSSION SESSION AND FINAL QUIZ

**READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 190 PACKET
SPRING 2007**

POWER AND MARKETS

- 1) Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets, Basic Books, 1977*
Chapter 12 “Markets and Democracy”

- 2) Milton Friedman and Rose Friedman, “*The Power of Markets.*” from *Free to Choose, Hartcourt, Brace, and Janaovich, 1980, pp. 9-37.*

- 3) Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation, Revron Press, 1957, Chs.4-6.*

- 4) Charles Wolf, “*Market Failure,*” *Markets or Governments, MIT Press, 1990, pp. 20-29.*

- 5) Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets,*
Chapter 5, “*Authority Systems: Strong Thumbs, No Fingers*”

Chapter 6, “*The Limited Competence of*

Markets”

Chapter 13, “The Privileged Position of Business”

Chapter 14, “The Consequences for Polyarchy”

Chapter 2, “Authority and State”

Chapter 3, “Exchange and Markets”

Chapter 10, “Polyarchy”

6) Robert Michels, “*Democracy and the Iron Law of Oligarchy*” in *Political Parties, Free Press, 1949, Ch. 2.*

7) Friedrich A. Hayek, “*Equality, Value, and Merit,*” from *The Constitution of Liberty, 1960*

8) Benjamin Page and James Simmons *What Government Can Do?*, University of Chicago Press, 2000, Chapter 2, pp. 43-46, and Chapter 3, “*What Should Government Do?*”

**9) John Mueller, *Capitalism and Democracy: Ralph’s Pretty Good Grocery*
Ch 9, “*Democracy and Capitalism*”**

LAW AND INSTITUTIONS

- 1) Robert Dahl, *On Democracy*, Yale University Press, 1998, Chapter 8 (pp. 83-99) and pp. 113-114..
- 2) Jerrold G. Rusk, "Who is Allowed to Vote: Suffrage and Election Laws," in *A Statistical History of the U.S. Electorate*, 2002, Chapter 2.
- 3) Lyn Ragsdale and Jerrold Rusk, "Who are Non-voters: Profiles from the 1990 Senate Elections," *American Journal of Political Science*, 199 , pp. 721-726, 743-746.
- 4) David R. Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, Yale, 1974, pp. 11-78.
- 5) John Aldrich, *Why Parties?* Chicago, 199 , Chapter 1.
- 6) Morris Fiorina, Parties, "Participation, and Representation: Old Theories Face New Realities," from *Political Science: State of the Discipline*, APSA, 2002.
- 7) David R Mayhew, "Actions in the Public Sphere," in Paul Quirk and Sarah Binder, Editors, *American Institutions of Democracy: The Legislative Branch*, (2005), pp. 63 and 91-98.
- 8) Max Weber, "Bureaucracy," from *Essays in Sociology*, translated by Gerth and Mills, *Galaxy* 1958, pp. 196-245.

9) Daniel Carpenter, "The Evolution of National Bureaucracy in the United States," in Joel Aberbach and Mark Peterson, Editors, *American Institutions of Democracy: The Executive Branch* (2005), pp 64-66.

10) Barry R Weingast, "Caught in the Middle: The President, Congress and the Political Bureaucratic System." in Joel Aberbach and Mark Peterson, Editors, *American Institutions of Democracy: The Executive Branch* (2005), pp. 333-338.

11) Paul Peterson, *The Price of Federalism*, Chapter 8.

12) John A. Ferejohn, "Judicializing Politics, Politicizing Law", *Hoover Digest*, 2003

CULTURE AND IDENTITY

1) Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Chapters 1, 2, and 5.

2) Felicia Lee, "Research Around the World Links Religion and Capitalism," *NYT*, January 31, 2004.

3) Judith Shklar, *American Citizenship*, Chapter 2.

4) Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Frontier in American History*, *Forward and Chapter 1*, pp vii to 38.

5) Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Chapters 1, 15, and 22 .

6) Ronald Inglehart and Paul Abramson, "Economic Security and Value Change," APSR .

7) Mancur Olson, Jr. "Collective Action, The Logic," from *Classic Readings in American Politics*, pp. 225-240.

8) Larry Bennett and Adolph Reed, Jr. "The New Face of Urban Renewal: The Near North Redevelopment Initiative and the Cabrini-Green Neighborhood," From Adolph Reed, Editor, *Without Justice for All*, 1999.

Interesting Datum

According to the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons (CSAAP), **on any given day there are 2.2 million people in prison in the US (about 1 in 140 of the population), at an annual cost of 60 billion dollars a year.** *Medical News Today*, 11 January 2007