

### **POLITICAL SCIENCE 293: POSSIBLE POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

This course offers a dose of visionary political thinking as an antidote to the pervasive political pessimism from which we have suffered since the Sixties. More specifically, it elaborates a vision of an ideal society characterized by sexual, political and technological liberation. At the same time, it is designed to encourage serious discussion about the possibility of – and thus the obstacles to – the actualization of this ideal. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with the case for gender equality, participatory democracy, and deep ecology as well as address the arguments that can be and have been made against the desirability and/or possibility of these forms of liberation. Four short (five to seven pages, double-spaced typed) papers will be required.

It should go without saying that students are expected to come to class having *done the required reading* and therefore being prepared to ask questions and make comments during lectures and discussions.

The following required readings are available for purchase at Circle Center Bookstore:

Ernest Callenbach, *Ecotopia*  
Robert A. Dahl, *After the Revolution*

E. Gene Frankland and Donald Schoonmaker, *Between Protest and Power*, Steven Goldberg, *The Inevitability of Patriarchy*, and a collection of essays entitled *The Critique of Deep Ecology*, will be available for purchase from Professor Balbus during the first week of the course..

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| Week 1       | I.  | Introduction: Obstacles to the Utopian Imagination  |
| Weeks<br>2-4 | II. | A Feminist, Ecological and Participatory Democratic Utopia<br><br>Required: Callenbach, <i>Ecotopia</i> |
| Weeks 5-7    | A.  | The Case Against Gender Equality<br><br>Required: Goldberg, <i>The Inevitability of Patriarchy</i>      |

Recommended:

Dorothy Dinnerstein, *The Mermaid and the Minotaur*  
 Margaret Mead, *Male and Female*  
 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*  
 H.R. Hays, *The Dangerous Sex*  
     Sandra Bartky, *Femininity and Domination*  
     Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere, *Women, Culture and Society*  
 Rayna Reiter, *Toward an Anthropology of Women*  
 Isaac D. Balbus, *Marxism and Domination*, chaps. 2 & 5  
     Balbus, *Emotional Rescue: The Theory and Practice of a Feminist Father*  
 Christine Delphy, *Close To Home: A Materialist Analysis of Women's Oppression*  
 Catherine A. MacKinnon, *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*  
 Nancy Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering*  
 Jessica Benjamin, *The Bonds of Love*  
 Juliet Mitchell, *Woman's Estate*  
 Peggy Sandy, *Female Power and Male Dominance*  
 Martin King Whyte, *The Status of Women in Preindustrial Societies*

Weeks 8-10    B.    The Case Against Participatory Democracy

Required: Dahl, *After the Revolution?*

Recommended:

Michael Albert and Robin Hahnel, *Looking Forward: Participatory Economics for the Twenty-First Century*  
 David Schweikart, *Capitalism or Worker Control?*  
 Julian LeGrand and Saul Estrin, eds., *Market Socialism*  
 Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory*  
 Robert Paul Wolff, *In Defense of Anarchism*  
 George C. Benello and Dimitrios I. Roussopoulos, *The Case for Participatory Democracy*  
 Steve Shalom, ed., *Socialist Visions*  
 Jane Mansbridge, *Beyond Adversary Democracy*  
 Kirkpatrick Sale, *Human Scale*  
 Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*  
 James Bohman, ed., *Deliberative Democracy*  
 Amy Gutman and Dennis Thompson, *Why Deliberative Democracy?*  
 John Dryzek, *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond*  
 James F. Fishkin and Peter Laslett, *Debating Deliberative Democracy*  
 Majid Behrouzi, *Democracy as the Political Empowerment of the Citizen*

Weeks 11-13

C. The Case Against Deep Ecology

Required: "The Critique of Deep Ecology"

Recommended:

Arne Naess, *Ecology, Community and Lifestyle*

Barry Commoner, *The Closing Circle*

Jeremy Rifkin, *Entropy*

Murray Bookchin, *Post-Scarcity Anarchism*

Bookchin, *Re-enchanting Humanity*

Bookchin, *The Ecology of Freedom*

Bookchin and Dave Foreman, *Defending the Earth*

Richard Neuhaus, *In Defense of People*

Ivan Illich, *Tools for Conviviality*

Robert E. Goodin, *Green Political Theory*

David W. Kidner *Nature and Psyche*

Michael E. Zimmerman, *Contesting Earth's Future*

Timothy W. Luke, *Ecocritique*

Ingolf Bluhdorn, *Post-Ecological Politics*

Kirkpatrick Sale, *Dwellers in the Land: The Bioregional Vision*

E. F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*

George Sessions and Bill Duvall, *Deep Ecology*

Andrew McLaughlin, *Regarding Nature: Industrialism and Deep Ecology*

David Pepper, *Eco-Socialism: From Deep Ecology to Social Justice*

Andrew Dobson and Paul Lucardie, *The Politics of Nature*

Balbus, *Marxism and Domination*, chaps. 8-9

Bill McKibben, *The End of Nature*

Robin Eckersley, *Environmentalism and Political Theory: Towards an Ecocentric Approach*

Week 14-15

IV. Contemporary Practice and Future Prospects

Required: Frankland and Schoonmaker, *Between Protest and Power*

Recommended:

John Barry, *Rethinking Green Politics*

Margit Mayer and John Ely, eds., *The German Greens: Paradox Between Movement and Party*

Fritjof Capra and Charlene Spretnak, *Green Politics*

Jonathan Porritt, *Seeing Green*

Werner Hulsberg, *The German Greens*

Balbus, *Marxism and Domination*, chap. 10

*Programme of the German Green Party*  
Helmut Wiesenthal, *Realism in Green Politics*  
William E. Coleman, Jr. & William E. Coleman, Sr., *A Rhetoric of  
the People: The German Greens and the New Politics*  
Wolfgang Rudig, ed., *Green Politics One*  
Daniel Coleman, *Ecopolitics: Building a Green Society*

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Office Hours Tuesdays 1-3  
and by appointment