

Political Science 101

Spring 2014

4 credit hours

Instructor: Professor Dick Simpson	E-mail address: simpson@uic.edu
Office location: BSB 1108C	Times and days class meets: M, W 11-12
Office hours: M, 2-4; by appointment	Classroom location: LCA1

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Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

In this course, students will utilize diverse methods – books, films, and first-hand experience – to learn about American politics. Many books are for the general reader and complete in themselves. This book published on Blackboard for POLS 101 is different. It is a kind of map for use by students and professors in an introductory course on the study of politics. As a student in such a course you will find that just enough has been written here to guide you toward a reflective understanding of politics. The text is only half completed. You will have to finish the job. Questions have been raised for which you must discover the answers.

The first step after glancing at these instructions and course syllabus and after purchasing your books is to familiarize yourself and to beginning using the sections of the *Who Rules?* book as they appear on Blackboard. You will find a series of study guides for major lectures and films along with exercises and some of the course readings.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts, in order they will be used Major Assignments

Riordan, William. *Plunkett of Tammany Hall*. Signet Classics. 1995.

Marx, Karl, and Engels, Friedrich. *The Communist Manifesto*

Becker, Carl. *Declaration of Independence*

Flanigan, William. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. New Edition, 2014.

Alter, Jonathan. *The Center Holds*. 2013.

Simpson Dick. *Winning Elections*. New edition for course, 2014.

Additional documents, including excerpts of Simpson's *Who Rules?*, will be located on Blackboard.

Major Assignments

The assignments for the course are clearly listed for each day on the calendar sheet. It is expected that you will have completed the week's readings, exercises, and special assignments by Friday's discussion session each week.

- 1) 2/24 - midterm exam consisting of 50 questions worth one point each;
- 2) TBA- a 5-10 page political philosophy paper grades on a scale of 0-25;
- 3) TBA- a series of exercises and participation in class discussions worth up to 10 points;
- 4) 3/18 - participation on election day 15 points; and a
- 5) Thursday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. - final exam consisting of 50 questions.

COURSE PURPOSE

This course's purpose is not to cram your head full of "facts" in isolation, but to introduce you to the concepts, analytical tools, and on-going disputes both in political science and in our American society. This is to be achieved by a substantive focus on political power in the United States.

The course considers three aspects of the study of politics: 1) political analysis, 2) political philosophy, and 3) political action. Rather than present a single perspective, there is a conscious attempt to expose you to alternative views – often conflicting and opposing views – both within and among the three basic approaches to the study of politics. This is not done abstractly but by involvement in the substantive question of who rules – Who does rule? (*analysis*), Who should rule? (*philosophy*) and What can be done to maintain or change rulers? (*action*)

The course utilizes a multi-media approach. Books and lectures expose you to well-argued viewpoints. But in addition there will be special films, videotapes, and audio tapes, discussion groups, exercises. Each of the media, sessions and assignments, has a specific function in relation to the overall course; hopefully the particular advantages of each can be utilized to heighten the impact of the total course. *Films*, for instance, will be used to emphasize societal problems and to give you an experience with political campaigning and political confrontation which you are unlikely to get on your own. In the role-playing or *Simulation* you will have a chance to participate directly – to test some of the ideas of the course – and through your participation to control some of the variables which determine political outcomes. *Videotapes* will be utilized to present in capsule form differing views among political scientists and practical politicians. *Lectures* will be used to offer new insights and to unify the somewhat diverse experiences and material of the course. They also allow the course, although large and employing impersonal media, to remain a "personalized" communication between you and the instructor. Finally, the *Discussion Groups* are the most spontaneous and flexible part of the course. They will give you the opportunity to ask questions, to make sure you understand the material, to raise new issues you want to discuss, and to get a much more direct contact with both your discussion leaders and instructor.

The purpose of this book in Blackboard is to organize the course, to make various media more accessible, to provide questions and exercises to guide your learning of the material, and to make retention of what you learn more likely.

Your text has several sections. The introductory section is concerned with the organization of the course and contains the table of contents, a course calendar and

assignment sheet covering each class session, and a list of supplemental as well as required books and films.

The heart of the book lies in the study guides of Part I. They supply basic definitions, notes, and questions to be used in studying class presentations. If you can answer the questions asked in the study guides, you will have no difficulty with course exams or grades.

Part II provides exercises to develop your analytical skills. The tools you learn in this course will also prove of use in more advanced courses in the university.

Last of all, several of the shorter readings of the course are included in Part III because it is easier and far cheaper for you to obtain them this way than to purchase them separately. They also illustrate nicely the kind of divergence in political philosophy to which you will be exposed in this course.

I hope you will take the course and this text seriously. Through them you will be exposed to many new ideas and useful tools of political analysis if you but choose to make them your own and to use them to inform your own political thinking and action.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, METHODS OF EVALUATION, & GRADING POLICIES

The assignments for the course are clearly listed for each day on the assignment sheet. It is expected that you will have completed the week's readings, exercises, and special assignments by Friday's discussion session each week.

Course Grades, Evaluation Criteria, and Revision Policy

Your grade for the course will be determined in the following manner: 1) a midterm exam consisting of 50 questions worth one page each; 2) a 5-10 page political philosophy paper grades on a scale of 0-25; 3) a series of exercises and participation in class discussions worth up to 10 points; 4) participation on election day 15 points; and a final exam consisting of 50 questions.

If your philosophy paper is unsatisfactory, it may be corrected and resubmitted once. The highest possible score for the course is thus 150 points. Grades will be apportioned as follows: 135-150 = A; 120-134 = B; 100-119 = C; 85-99 = D; below 85 = F.

If you fail to run in your paper or fail to take the final exam without permission you will receive automatically a failing grade.

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades will be reported on Blackboard. To provide students with feedback and support, TAs are available during their office hours for consultation.

Final Exams

For a schedule of exams and exam policies see:

http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/current_students/calendars/final_exam_schedule.html

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Research indicates that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. While attendance may not be taken officially every day in lecture, it will impact how you do on all other coursework.

Policy for Missed or Late Work

Late work - assignments and exams – will be accepted only with valid excuses by the teaching assistants.

Student Courtesy Policy

Please remember to turn off your cell phone when you enter the classroom. Laptops and tablets may be used for taking notes and course purposes only. Other uses will cause a lowered grade.

Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism will be punished by an **F** for the entire course and referred to the university for further disciplinary proceedings. As an academic community, UIC is committed to providing an environment in which research, learning, and scholarship can flourish and in which all endeavors are guided by academic and professional integrity. All members of the campus community—students, staff, faculty, and administrators—share the responsibility of insuring that these standards are upheld so that such an environment exists. Instances of academic misconduct by students will be handled pursuant to the Student Disciplinary Policy:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oe/docs/ReligiousHolidaysFY20122014.pdf>

NON-101 ACADEMIC DEADLINES

January 20, M	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. No classes.
January 24, F	Last day to complete late registration; last day to add a course(s) or make section changes; last day to drop individual courses via <i>Student Self-Service</i> without receiving W (Withdrawn) grade on academic record. Last day to submit Withdraw from Term request via <i>Student Self-Service</i>
January 31, F	Last day to file for graduation this term.
T.B.A.	CampusCare deadline to change coverage or submit waiver of coverage form.
March 24- 28, M-F	Spring vacation. No classes.

May 2, F	Instruction ends.
May 5-9, M-F	Final Examinations.
May 10, Sa	Semester ends.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 312-413-0123 (TTY) and consult the following: http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/disability_resources/faq/accommodations.html.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

UIC is committed to the most fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity involving students and employees. Freedom from discrimination is a foundation for all decision making at UIC. Students are encouraged to study the University's "[Nondiscrimination Statement](#)". Students are also urged to read the document "[Public Formal Grievance Procedures](#)". Information on these policies and procedures is available on the University web pages of the Office of Access and Equity: www.uic.edu/depts/oe.

CALENDAR OF MAJOR COURSE EVENTS AND SYLLABUS

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
I	1/13	Introduction to course and "Teaching Politics" DVD to be shown in class	<i>Plunkett of Tammany Hall</i> (all)
	1/15	Lecture on Political Philosophy (pp. 1-5 on BB)	Exercises: How to Outline Books and How to Study Films, pp. 111-112 on Blackboard
	1/17	Discussion Groups Meet	
II	1/20	Holiday: Martin Luther King Day	<i>The Federalist Papers</i> #10, #47, and #51 in <i>Who Rules?</i> on Blackboard pp. 129-136.
	1/22	Lecture on Political Analysis	
	1/24	Discussion Groups Meet	Exercise: Political Information Questionnaire Due: 1/24
III	1/27	Lecture on Political Action (pp. 10-12)	<i>The Port Huron Statement</i> pp. 137-142 in <i>Who Rules?</i>
	1/29	Film in Class: "Lord of the Flies" pp. 16-18	Exercise: Theories, Hypotheses, and Table Reading pp. 117-120 in <i>Who Rules?</i>
	1/31	Discussion Groups Meet	
IV	2/3	Lecture on Plunkitt and the Federalist pp. 13-15	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (all)

	2/5	Film “1996 Elections: The Bridge to the 21st Century” (view at home)	Exercise: Initial Analysis of Plunkett and the Federalist Due: 2/7
V	2/7	Discussion Groups Meet	
	2/10	Lecture on The Port Huron Statement And Communist Manifesto	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> pp. 149-159 in <i>Who Rules?</i>
	2/12	Film “By the People” (view at home)	
VI	2/14	Discussion Groups Meet	
	2/17	Lecture on Burkean Conservatism	<i>Declaration of Independence</i> (first half of book)
	2/19	Lecture on the Declaration of Independence	
	2/21	Discussion Groups Meet	Study Guide for Midterm Exam
VII	2/24	Midterm Exam	<i>Declaration of Independence</i> (second half of book)
	2/26	Film: “Game Change” on the 2008 Election (view at home)	
	2/28	Discussion Group – Return of Midterm Exams and Discussion of “Game Change”	
VIII	3/3	Lecture: The Study of Political Behavior	<i>Political Behavior of the American Electorate</i> (first half of book)
	3/5	Film: “Saul Alinsky Goes to War” (view at home)	
IX	3/7	Discussion of Political Behavior	
	3/10	Lecture on Non-Electoral Politics	<i>Political Behavior of the American Electorate</i> (second half of book)
	3/12	Film: “In Order to Change” (view at home)	
X	3/14	Discussion on Non-Electoral Politics	
	3/17	Audio Tape Lecture on Definition of the Situation	<i>The Center Holds</i> (first half)
	3/18	Illinois primary election special assignment: Students need to work for at least two hours for a campaign, an election judge, or poll watcher.	
	3/19	Day off to compensate for working on election day.	
	3/21	Film: “The 99% Occupy Everywhere” (view at home)	
March 24-28	Spring Break		
XI	3/31	Lecture on the Tea Party and Occupy	<i>The Center Holds</i> (second

	4/2	Film: "The Tea Party Patriots" (view at home)	half) "Generation Hopeless?" <i>In These Times</i> (Blackboard)
	4/4	Discussion of Tea Party and Occupy	
XII	4/7	Lecture on <i>Winning Elections</i>	<i>Winning Elections</i> (first half)
	4/9	"How to Win Elections" videos (view at home)	
	4/11	Discussion Groups Meet	
XIII	4/14	Lecture on Revolution	<i>Winning Elections</i> (second half)
	4/16	Film: "The Battle of Algiers" in class	
	4/18	Discussion Groups Meet	
XIV	4/21	Lecture on Al Quaida and the Arab Spring	Special Assigned Readings "50-Point Manifesto of Hasan al-Banna" (Blackboard)
	4/23	Film: "Conventions: The Land Around Us" (view at home)	
	4/25	Discussion Groups Meet	
XV	4/28	Review Lecture for Course	
	4/30	Film: "Compelled to Action" (view at home)	
	5/2	Discussion Groups: Review of Course	
Final Exam:		Thursday May 8, 10:30 a.m.	