

## Political Science 190: The Scope of Political Science

This course is designed to introduce you to different ways of understanding politics and its relationship to human life as a whole. More specifically, it encourages you to think both imaginatively and rigorously about the legal-institutional, socio-economic, and cultural-psychological dimensions of political life. You will learn that the scope of politics includes subjects 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”.

Each class will be devoted to a structured discussion of the topics covered both in my *Governing Subjects: An Introduction to the Study of Politics*, which is required and available for purchase at the UIC Bookstore at Student Center East, and in the required readings available on Blackboard. Many of those readings are quite challenging, and understanding them will require serious and sustained effort on your part. The chapters in my book cover some, but not all, of those readings. Thus you will have to read my book, participate in our discussions, and read the material on Blackboard in order to do well in this course.

All students will be required to write three short (five-to-seven double-spaced typed pages) papers on topics that will be announced well before the dates on which they are due. The due dates for all three papers will fall on the Tuesday following the last session of each of the first three substantive sections of the course, that is, on Tuesday February 14, Tuesday March 13, and Tuesday April 17. You will not be adequately prepared to write these papers unless you attend class regularly and complete the required reading. The papers will be graded by the Teaching Assistant for this course, Mr. Henry Noll, under the supervision of the Professor Balbus. Papers turned in late will (in the absence of a legitimate, compelling excuse) have their grade lowered one letter grade for each day they are late. There will also be a final in-class exam that will test your familiarity with the required readings.

Grades will be calculated on the following basis:

**Papers:** 90% of your course grade. The lowest of the three paper grades will be dropped; only the two highest paper grades will count, each representing 45% of your course grade. Note that you must hand in *all three papers* to qualify for the “drop the lowest grade” rule.

**Final Exam:** 10% of your grade

**Participation:** If the combination of the grade on the papers and the grade on the final exam fails to yield an unambiguous final grade, the frequency and quality of your in-class participation will be taken into account.

## **I. Introduction: Politics as a Contested Term**

January 10-12

Required: Pictures and Balbus, *Governing Subjects*, Preface and General Introduction, pp. ix-xvi.

## **II. Law and Institutions**

### **Topic 1: Law and the Rule of Law**

January 17

Required: Balbus, chapter one, pp. 3-9

Ingram, *What is Law?*, pp. 1-4; *Law and Morality*, pp. 16-24; 28-49.

### **Topic 2: The Separation of Powers (with Checks and Balances)**

January 19

Required: Balbus, chapter two, pp. 10-18.

Ingram, *Constitutional Law*, pp. 50-55; Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Book 11, chapters 3-6, pp. 200-213; James Madison, *Federalist Papers* 47, 48, 49, 51, pp. 234-48; 251-55;

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II, chapters 1-2, pp. 59-61.

### **Topic 3: Judicial Review**

January 24

Required: Balbus. Chapter three, pp.19-25

Ingram, “The Power of Judicial Review Within the American Context”, pp. 56-72; Hamilton, *Federalist* 78, pp.377-83; Robert Yates, *Letters of Brutus* xi, xii, xv, pp. 501-512; 524-29.

### **Topic 4: Conceptions of Democracy: “Thin” versus “Thick”**

January 26

Required: Balbus, chapter four, pp. 26-32.

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book III, Chapter XV, “On Deputies or Representatives”, pp.101-104; Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy*, pp.1-9; Joseph Schumpeter, “Another Theory of Democracy”, pp. 269-73; 282-83; Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*, pp.xi-xvi; 3-25; 150-55

### **Topic 5: The Concept (and Reality?) of Representation**

January 31

Required: Balbus, chapter five, pp. 33-39.

Hanna Pitkin, “The Mandate-Independent Controversy”, in *The Concept of Representation*, pp. 144-167; Kenneth Prewitz and Heinz Eulau, “Political Matrix and Political Representation”, pp. 127-47.

### **Topic 6: Political Parties**

February 2

Required: Balbus, chapter six, pp. 40-46.

Madison, *Federalist Paper* 10, pp. 40-46; E.E. Schattschneider, *Party Government*, pp. 65-93; Lisa Disch, *The Tyranny of the Two-Party System*; pp.4-14; 127-140.

### **Topic 7: Elections**

February 7

Required: Balbus, chapter seven, pp. 47-53.

V.O. Key, jr., *The Responsible Electorate*, pp. 1-8; Forward by Arthur Maas, vii-xv; pp. 149-51;

Thomas E. Patterson, "The Miscast Institution", in *Out of Order*, pp. 28-42; Walter Dean

Burnham, "The Changing Shape of the American Political Universe", pp. 7-28.

### **Topic 8: Civil Society**

February 9

Required: Balbus, chapter eight, pp.54-60.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume I, Chapter XII, pp. 216-226; Volume II,

Chapters V-VII, pp. 106-119; Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social

Capital", pp. 1-9; John Ehrenberg, *Civil Society: The Critical History of an Idea*, pp. 233-250.

## **III. Markets and Power**

### **Topic 9: Human Nature and the Market**

February 14

Required: Balbus, Introduction to Part Two, pp. 63-69 and chapter nine, pp. 69-75.

Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, pp.25-30; Karl

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, pp. 33-76.

### **Topic 10: Freedom and the Market**

February 16

Required: Balbus, chapter ten, pp. 76-83.

Rose and Milton Friedman, "The Power of the Market", pp.9-37; Karl Marx, "Estranged

Labour", in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 70-81.

### **Topic 11: Justice and the Market**

February 21

Required: Balbus, chapter eleven, pp. 84-90.

Friedrich A. Hayek, "Equality, Value, and Merit", pp. 80-99; John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*,

pp. 60-65, 75-80; 100-108; 534-541.

### **Topic 12: Democracy and the Market I: Corporations and the State**

February 23

Required: Balbus, chapter twelve, pp. 91-97.

Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets*, pp. 161-200.

### **Topic 13: Democracy and the Market II: Corporate Governance**

February 28

Required: Balbus, chapter thirteen, pp. 98-104.

Doug Henwood, "Governance", in *Wall Street*, pp. 246-94; Robert A. Dahl, "The Corporate

Leviathan", in *After The Revolution?*, pp. 96-115.

### **Topic 14: Democracy and the Market III: Globalization and Governance**

March 1

Required: Balbus, chapter fourteen, pp. 105-110.

David Held and Anthony McGrew, *Globalization/Anti-Globalization*, pp. 38-59; 62-74; Jackie Smith, "Globalizing Resistance: The Battle of Seattle and the Future of Social Movements", in Jackie Smith and Hank Johnston, *Globalization and Resistance* (2002), pp. 207-222.

### **Topic 15: The Concept of Power I: The Three Faces of "Negative" Power**

March 6

Required: Balbus, chapter fifteen, pp. 111-117.

Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*, pp. 9-57.

### **Topic 16: The Concept of Power II: "Positive" Power: Normalization versus Communication**

March 8

Required: Balbus, chapter sixteen, pp. 118-124.

Michel Foucault, "The Means of Correct Training", in *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 170-94; Hannah Arendt, "Communicative Power", pp. 59-74.

## **V. Culture and Identity**

### **Topic 17: What is (a) Culture?**

March 13

Required: Balbus, Introduction to Part Three, pp. 127-130 and chapter seventeen, pp. 131-136, Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretative Theory of Culture", pp.3-30, in *The Interpretation of Cultures*, 1973; Marvin Harris, "The Origin of the Sacred Cow" and "A 'Beef' with Sahlins", pp. 248-57, in Harris, *Cultural Materialism*, 1979.

### **Topic 18: Beyond Ethnocentrism and Relativism?**

March 15

Required: Balbus, chapter eighteen, pp. 137-141.

Peter Winch, "Understanding a Primitive Society"; pp.159-87; I. C. Jarvie, "Understanding and Explanation in Sociology and Social Anthropology", pp. 189-204; Peter Winch, "Comment", pp. 207-214, all in Fred R. Dallmayr and Thomas A. McCarthy, *Understanding and Social Inquiry*, 1977.

### **Topic 19: Modernity**

March 27

Required: Balbus, chapter nineteen, pp. 142-147.

Anthony Giddens, "The Contours of High Modernity", pp.10-34, in Giddens, *Modernity and Self-Identity*, 1991; Zygmunt Bauman, "Modernity, or Deconstructing Mortality", pp. 129-160, in *Mortality, Immortality and Other Life Strategies*, 1992.

### **Topic 20: Modernity and Identity**

March 29

Required: Balbus, chapter twenty, pp. 148-154.

Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition", pp. 75-106, in Taylor, *Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition*, 1992; Joan W. Scott, "Multiculturalism and the Politics of Identity", pp. 3-11, in John Rajchman, *The Identity in Question*, 1995; Todd Gitlin, "The Fate of the Commons", pp. 223-37, in *The Twilight of Common Dreams*.

### **Topic 21: Gender Identity**

April 3

Required: Balbus, chapter twenty-one, pp. 155-161.

Carol Gilligan, "Women's Place in Man's Life Cycle", pp. 5-23, in *In a Different Voice*, 1982; Nancy Fraser and Linda J. Nicholson, "Social Criticism Without Philosophy: An Encounter Between Feminism and Postmodernism", pp. 26-35; Susan Bordo, "Feminism, Post-Modernism, and Gender-Scepticism", pp. 133-142 and 149-153, both in Nicholson, ed., *Feminism/Postmodernism*, 1990

### **Topic 22: Racial Identity**

April 5

Required: Balbus, chapter twenty-two, pp. 161-167.

W.E.B. DuBois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", pp. 37-44, in *The Souls of Black Folk*, 1903; Anthony Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument: DuBois and the Illusion of Race", pp. 21-36, in Henry Louis Gates, Jr., ed., *Race*, *Writing and Difference*, 1986; Eric Lott, *Love and Theft*, pp. 3-7; 15-20; 112-122; 138-50.

### **Topic 23: National Identity**

April 10

Required: Balbus, chapter twenty-three, pp. 168-173.

Anthony D. Smith, "Social Construction and Ethnic Genealogy", pp. 52-77, in Smith, *The Nation in History*, 2000; Michael Ignatief, "Benign Nationalism?: The Possibilities of the Civic Ideal" and Robert Fine, "Benign Nationalism?: The Limits of the Civic Ideal", pp. 141-161, in Edward Mortimer, ed., *People, Nation and State*, 1999.

### **Topic 24: Religious Identity**

April 12

Required: Balbus, chapter twenty-four, pp. 174-181.

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Sacred and Secular*, pp. 3-27; Roger Finke, "An Unsecular America", pp. 145-165, in Steve Bruce, ed., *Religion and Modernization*, 1992; Richard T. Antoun, *Understanding Fundamentalism*, pp. 153-161.

## **VI. Conclusion: Toward a Psychoanalytic Synthesis**

April 17-26

Required, Balbus, Introduction to Part IV, pp. 185-191 and chapters twenty-five through twenty-eight, pp. 192-227.

**Lecturer**

Isaac Balbus, BSB 1122-C, 413-2190, [balbus@uic.edu](mailto:balbus@uic.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant**

Henry Noll, BSB 1177, [hnoll2@uic.edu](mailto:hnoll2@uic.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12