

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Peter Rutland; office PAC 203; tel. 2483; email: prutland@wesleyan.edu  
office hours PAC 203 Tuesday, 10.00-12.00, Friday 11.00-12.00.

**T.A.s:** Andrew Bleeker [ableeker], Aldo Tedjomoeljono [atedjomoeljo]

This course is an introduction to the main concepts and approaches in the four sub-fields of political science:

- 1) Political theory (weeks 2-3, 5-7)
- 2) Comparative politics (weeks 1-3, 5-9, 11-12)
- 3) American politics (weeks 5, 8, 13)
- 4) International relations (weeks 4, 10, 11)

**ASSESSMENT:** Out of 100 points, as follows:

- 1) Three short papers, 2-3 pages in length, to be submitted in class on February 24, April 3 and April 28. (2 points per day penalty for late submission.) [15 points each]
- 2) Mid term on March 10, [20 points]
- 3) Final on Tuesday May 16, 9.00 am [30 points]
- 4) Class participation. Students should complete the required reading each week. Attendance at an out-of-class lecture and submission of a 1-2 page report will earn 2-3 extra points. [10 points]

Failure to attend three classes without prior notification to the instructor will be considered a withdrawal from the class and will result in a failing grade.

All the readings, apart from those in books to be purchased, are available in electronic form on the Pols 101 Blackboard site, under Course Materials. They will also be accessible through Olin's ERes online reserves.

You are expected to read or at least look through all the assigned readings each week. They are listed in roughly descending order of importance. The top three readings are usually essential.

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* is available online at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

**BOOKS**

Recommended for purchase:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Robert Dahl                    | <i>Polyarchy</i> (Yale University Press, 1972)   |
| Alexis de Tocqueville          | <i>Democracy in America</i> (trans. Richard Heffner, Signet, 2001)   |
| Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels   | <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (Signet Reprint, 1998)  |
| George Orwell                  | <i>1984</i> (Signet Reissue 1990)  |
| Sam Huntington <i>et al</i>    | <i>The Clash of Civilizations? The Debate</i> (Foreign Affairs, 1996)  |
| Jacob S. Hacker & Paul Pierson | <i>Off Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy</i> (Yale University Press 2005)          |
| Allister Sparks                | <i>Tomorrow is Another Country The Inside Story of South Africa's Road to Change</i> (University of Chicago Press, 1996) |

## WEB RESOURCES

Wikipedia.org Uneven in depth of coverage, but often interesting.

*Encyclopedia Britannica* (free access through Olin Reference, under the 'Other' section on the Olin site)

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

*Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (free access through Olin Reference)

### Sites with multiple links to political science sources:

[www.rvc.cc.il.us/faclink/pruckman/PSLinks.htm](http://www.rvc.cc.il.us/faclink/pruckman/PSLinks.htm)

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/polisci.html>

<http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/>

<http://www.constitution.org/liberlib.htm>

A library of historical texts relating to constitutions, rule of law, liberty, etc.

### Hard copy reference works (Olin library first floor) :

*Encyclopedia of Democracy* JC423 .E53 1995

*International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* H41 .I58 2001

*Blackwell dictionary of political science* JA61 .B43 1999

*The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Thought* JA61 .B57 1987

## WEEK 1

## INTRODUCTION

Jan 25-27

What is politics? What can we learn about it from other primates?

Frans B.M. de Waal

*Chimpanzee Politics* (1998) pp. 82-87, 205-09

Frans B.M. De Waal

'We're all Machiavellians,' *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 23 Sep. 05

Temple Grandin

'Hey hey, we're the monkeys,' *New York Times*, 9 Oct. 2005

## WEEK 2

## THE ORIGINS OF DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY

Jan 30-Feb 3

What is meant by the democracy and freedom, in both their ancient and modern versions?

Under what conditions do political systems based on democracy and freedom come into being?

What is the place for women in Aristotle, Popper or Constant? What is the distinction between normative and positive theory?

Fred Miller

'Aristotle's political theory,' *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Aristotle

*Politics* (350 BC) book 4: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>

Karl Popper

*The Open Society and Its Enemies*. (1945) vol. 1, ch 4 on Plato, extracts

Benjamin Constant

*The Liberty of the Ancients Compared to That of the Moderns* (1816)

Wikipedia.org

'Human Rights'

### WEEK 3

Feb 6-9

### THE STATE

What is the state? What does it do that other institutions do not do? What is law? Why are some states and rulers 'legitimate' and others not so? What are the sources of political power?

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Max Weber       | <i>Politics as a Vocation</i> (1919) extracts  |
| Wikipedia.org   | 'State,' 'Nation state,' 'Legitimacy'  |
| Sharon Lloyd    | 'Hobbes' moral and political theory' <i>Stanford Encyclop. of Philosophy</i>   |
| Cary Nederman   | 'Niccolo Machiavelli,' esp. section 2, <i>Stanford Encyclop. of Philosophy</i>   |
| Michael Mann    | 'The autonomous power of the state,' in John B. Hall (ed),<br><i>States in History</i> (1987) pp. 109-36   |
| William Domhoff | 'Studying power' (April 2005)<br><a href="http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/index.html">http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/index.html</a> |

### WEEK 4

Feb 13-17

### THE STATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

An introduction to the key concepts of international relations theory: the nation-state and the Westphalian system, the security dilemma and the balance of power; Realist vs Liberal theories of the international system; the concept of 'just war.'

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Robert Jackson &<br>Georg Sorensen | 'Why study IR?' <i>Introduction to International Relations</i> (2003) ch. 1  |
| Dan Philpott                       | 'Sovereignty,' <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>  |
| Brian Orend                        | 'War,' <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>  |
| Hans Morgenthau                    | 'Six principles of political realism,' in <i>Politics Among Nations:<br/>The Struggle for Power and Peace</i> (1978), pp. 4-15 |
| Ari Shavit                         | 'On Gaza beach,' <i>New York Review of Books</i> , 18 July 1991  |

### FIRST ASSIGNMENT

#### to be submitted in class on February 24

Write a 2-3 page report in which you discuss the relevance and importance of ONE of the concepts discussed in the course so far: (democracy, the state, the balance of power, etc.) to understanding one political situation of your choice in the contemporary world.

### WEEK 5

Feb 20-24

### DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

What is *special* about the American political system? Why did it first arise in America, and not somewhere else? Can it serve as a model for the rest of the world?

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Alexis de Tocqueville | <i>Democracy in America</i> (1835)   |
| The U.S. Constitution |  |
| James Madison         | <i>The Federalist Papers</i> no. 8, 10 (1787)<br><a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html">http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html</a>             |
| Daniel Elazar         | 'To secure the blessings of liberty: Liberty and American federalism,'<br><a href="http://www.jcpa.org/dje/articles2/blesslib.htm">www.jcpa.org/dje/articles2/blesslib.htm</a> |
| Seymour M. Lipset     | 'Still the exceptional nation?,' <i>Hoover Digest</i> , 2000, no. 2.<br><a href="http://www.hooverdigest.org/002/lipset.html">http://www.hooverdigest.org/002/lipset.html</a>  |

## WEEK 6

Feb 27-Mar 3

## PLURALISM

How has the theory and practice of democracy evolved since de Tocqueville's time? How and why did the concept of the 'people' expand to include all males, women and African-Americans? What is the relationship between democracy and capitalism? And between democracy and nationalism – does democracy require the existence of a strong sense of national unity?

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Robert Dahl     | <i>Polyarchy</i> (1971)   |
| John E. Mueller | <i>Capitalism, Democracy and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery</i> pp. 243-53   |
| Robert Putnam   | 'Bowling alone: America's declining social capital,' <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Jan. 1995, vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 65-78                |
| Robert A. Dahl  | 'On removing certain impediments to democracy in the U.S.,' <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> , vol. 92, no.1, spring, 1977 pp. 1-20 |
| Amartya Sen     | 'Democracy as a universal value,' <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , vol. 10, no. 3, July 1999, pp. 3-17                                   |

## WEEK 7

Mar 6-10

## THE MARXIST CHALLENGE

Marx's radical critique of capitalism was wrapped up in a general theory of History. How has Marxism evolved to deal with the survival of capitalism into the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Capitalism still has its critics, but few buy into Marxist solutions any more.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels | <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (1848)<br>Online at: <a href="http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/">www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/</a>  |
| Karl Marx                    | 'The future results of the British rule in India' (1853)<br>Online at: <a href="http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1853/07/22.htm">www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1853/07/22.htm</a>                   |
| Vladimir Lenin               | <i>Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism</i> (1916) chapter 7 only.<br>Online at: <a href="http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/">www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/</a> |
| Andre Gunder Frank           | <i>The Development of Underdevelopment</i> (1966)   |
| Video clip                   | <i>Island of Flowers</i>  |

**March 10**

**MID-TERM EXAM in class**

**March 9-24**

**SPRING BREAK**

## WEEK 8

Mar 27-31

## RATIONAL ACTOR MODELS

- a) Economic thinking has been imported into models of political behavior, especially in trying to understand the 'collective action' problem. It brings some important insights into electoral behavior (Downs), the dynamics of organized groups (Olson) and the lack of international cooperation in the face of global ecological problems (Hardin).

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Russell Hardin  | 'The free rider problem,' <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>  |
| Garrett Hardin  | 'The Tragedy of the Commons' (1968) At: <a href="http://dieoff.org/page95.htm">http://dieoff.org/page95.htm</a> |
| Wikipedia       | Public good, Tragedy of the Commons, Prisoner's dilemma   |
| Anthony Downs   | <i>An Economic Theory of Democracy</i> (1958) ch. 8.  |
| Mancur Olson    | <i>The Logic of Collective Action</i> (1971) Introduction   |
| Gordon Tullock  | 'Autocracy,' in P. Bernhole (ed) <i>Economic Imperialism</i> (1987) p365-81                                     |
| Joe Oppenheimer | <i>The Laws of Politics</i> (2005) <b>Continued...</b>  |

## WEEK 8 (continued)

b) What difference do *institutions* make to political outcomes?

- Maurice Duverger 'Factors in a two-party and multiparty system,' in *Party Politics and Pressure Groups* (1972)
- Donald Horowitz 'Electoral systems: a primer for leaders,' *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 14, no. 44, Oct. 2003
- Juan Linz 'The perils of presidentialism,' *Journal of Democracy* vol. 1, no. 1 winter 1990, pp. 51-70

### SECOND ASSIGNMENT to be submitted in class on April 3

Write a 2-3 page report in which you select ONE of the rational choice concepts discussed in Week 8 and apply it to a political puzzle or conflict of your choosing

## WEEK 9

### TOTALITARIAN AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Apr 3-7

Stalin, Hitler, Kim Il Sung. How do these regimes work? What makes them so durable? What do they tell us about the human condition?

What is the difference between totalitarian regimes and authoritarian regimes? (Holmes)

Both regimes can be seen as responses to the challenge of modernization (Huntington).

Did the 'age of ideology' end with the end of the Cold War? (Fukuyama)

- George Orwell *1984* (1948)
- Wikipedia Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism
- Leslie Holmes 'Totalitarianism,' *International Encyc. of Social & Behavioral Sciences*
- Samuel P. Huntington *Political Order in Changing Societies* (1971) pp. 1-58
- Francis Fukuyama 'The end of history,' *National Interest*, summer 1989
- Video clip *Men With Guns, Uncle Saddam*

## WEEK 10 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AFTER THE COLD WAR

Apr 10-14

What happened to Realism and balance of power theory in the wake of the Cold War?

What is 'democratic peace' theory? In the 1990s, US foreign policy focused on humanitarian interventions and foreign aid. Are these always a good idea?

- John Mearsheimer 'Why we will soon miss the Cold War,' *Atlantic Monthly*, Aug. 1990
- Steven G. Brooks & William Wohlforth 'American primacy,' *Foreign Affairs*, July 2002
- Peter Rutland 'US foreign policy in turbulent times,' *Journal of American and Canadian Studies* (Tokyo), no. 21, March 2004, pp. 95-116
- Joseph Nye *The Paradox of American Power* (2002), pp. 4-17
- [Email packet] *US foreign policy in the 1990s*
- Thomas Schwartz 'The myth of democratic pacifism,' *Hoover Digest*, no. 2, 1999
- & Kiron Skinner
- Video clips *Wag the Dog, Black Hawk Down*

## WEEK 11 POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE 'CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS'

Apr 17-21

In 1993 Huntington predicted a wave of wars between rival 'civilizations.' Is his theory valid? How does Islam relate to 9/11 and the war on terror? What role does Islam play in Europe?

Samuel Huntington *et al* *The Clash of Civilizations? The Debate* (1996)  
Fareed Zakaria 'The politics of rage,' *Newsweek*, 15 Oct. 2001.  
Robert Pape 'Dying to kill us,' *New York Times*, 22 Sept. 2003.  
Ladan & Roya Boroumand 'Terror, Islam and democracy,' *Jour. of Democracy*, Apr 02, v. 13 n. 2  
Peter Schneider 'The new Berlin Wall,' *New York Times Magazine*, 4 Dec. 2005  
Video clip *Osama*

### THIRD ASSIGNMENT

to be submitted in class on April 28

A 2-3 page report in which you critically evaluate the argument in one of the following books: Allister Sparks *Tomorrow is Another Country*; Fareed Zakaria, *Illiberal Democracy*; or Jacob Hacker & Paul Pierson, *Off Center*.

## WEEK 12

Apr 24-28

### TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY: THE SOUTH AFRICAN CASE

- a) About 50 countries have made the transition to democracy in the past 15 years. South Africa is the most fascinating case. What does it tell us about the role of elites in politics, about the advisability of revolution, about the social and cultural prerequisites for democracy?

Allister Sparks *Tomorrow is Another Country* (1995)  
Michael Bratton 'South Africa,' in Jeff Kopstein & Marc Lichbach (eds.)  
*Comparative Politics*, (2005) ch. 10  
Antoinette Handley 'The new South Africa,' *Current History*, May 2004

- b) Is Zakaria correct in seeing a contradiction between individual rights and electoral democracy? What are the prospects for democracy? Is the war on terror good, or bad, for the cause of liberty?

Fareed Zakaria 'Democracies that take liberties,' *New York Times*, 2 Nov. 1997  
Fareed Zakaria 'The rise of illiberal democracy,' *Foreign Affairs*, Nov 1997, v. 76, n. 6  
Fareed Zakaria *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home & Abroad*(2004)  
Adrian Karatnycky 'Gains for freedom amidst terror and uncertainty,'  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2004/essay2004.pdf>

## WEEK 13

May 1-5

## CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICS

Just how democratic is the contemporary US political system? What are the most important flaws in the system, as you see it? Can you imagine any reforms that would improve its operation? Will the Democrats ever win another election?

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Jacob S. Hacker<br>& Paul Pierson | <i>Off Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy</i> (2005) |
| Jacob Hacker & Pierson            | 'The center no longer holds,' <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , 10 Nov. 2005               |
| Matt Bai                          | 'The excluded middle,' <i>New York Times</i> , 11 Dec. 2005                               |
| Noah Feldman                      | 'Who can check the president?,' <i>New York Times Mag.</i> , 8 Jan. 2006                  |
| Alan Wolfe                        | 'The power elite now,' <i>American Prospect</i> , vol. 10, no. 44, 1999                   |
| Jon Stewart                       | <i>America (The Book)</i> (2004)  |

### Web sources:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| William Domhoff     | 'Wealth, income and power' & 'Power at the local level' (2005)<br><a href="http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html">http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html</a>                    |
| 'Democracy at Risk' | <i>American Prospect</i> , Special Report, January 2005.<br><a href="http://www.prospect.org/web/page.wv?section=root&amp;name=Democracy+at+Risk">www.prospect.org/web/page.wv?section=root&amp;name=Democracy+at+Risk</a> |

## WEEK 14

May 8

## CONCLUSION

Fifty minutes to sum up the whole course and answer any unanswered questions.

## FINAL EXAMINATION Tuesday May 16, 9.00 am

## PROVISIONAL LIST OF RELEVANT VISITING SPEAKERS THIS SEMESTER

February 9 (Thursday). 4:15 talk. Stephen Walt, Harvard speaking on his recent book: *Taming American Power: The Global Response to American Primacy*.

March 2 (Thursday). 4:15 talk. Karen Donfried, German Marshall Fund. Wes grad and West Europe specialist.

March 30 (Thursday). 4:15 talk. Robert Gilpin, Princeton (emeritus). Talk on International Political Economy.

April 11 (Tuesday) 4.15 talk. Ian Buruma. Author and journalist, talk on China.

April 13 (Thursday). 4:15 talk. Ole Holsti, Duke (emeritus). World public opinion and foreign policy.

April 20 (Thursday). 4:15 talk. Susan Stokes, Yale. Talk on Latin American democratic governance and accountability.

April 25 (Tuesday). 4:15 talk. Nayan Chanda, Yale. Talk on the history of globalization.