

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science 101
Bellevue College
Fall 2015
M-F 1:30-2:20pm in D103

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Larry Cushnie, PhD
Email: l.cushnie@bellevuecollege.edu
Office: A200F

Office Hours:
Tuesday 2:30-3:30, Wednesday 10:15-11:15,
Thursday 10:15-11:15 & appointment

DESCRIPTION

Power is the central component to any discussion of politics. Political science is the study of human power including issues of legitimacy, rule, violence, justice, revolution, and exploitation. This course explores political science as an academic discipline. We will consider the major fields including: political theory, international relations, comparative politics, and American politics. However, we will also look at the relationship of political science to history, law, social movements, race, violence, inequality, and economics. Besides learning the basics of the field, we also take a critical view to evaluate its shortcomings and how it might help to perpetuate and/or solve societal ills.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Substantial parts of lecture will be dedicated to large-group discussion. Participation is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to the lecture for which it is assigned. They are also expected to bring the readings to lecture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To obtain general knowledge of political science as an academic discipline. This includes delving into the various ways research is conducted in the discipline as well as what types of questions political scientists ask.
2. To enlarge our political vocabularies, so that we may engage each other in political argument with greater force, flexibility, intelligence, and exactitude.
3. To conduct political dialogue with sympathy, critical attention, passion, and respect.
4. To strengthen our command of English prose through careful writing.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance & Participation - 20%
Current Events - 10%
Group Project – 5%
Midterm - 10%
One-on-One Meeting - 5%
Paper Proposal - 15%
Class Presentation - 10%
Final Paper - 25%

Participation will be graded through involvement during in-class discussions, group projects, debates, short (5-10 minutes) in-class writing assignments, and participation in post-lecture activities.

Each student will be required to provide current event topics for one Friday discussion. They need to be submitted by 8am Friday on Canvas. Please come to class prepared to discuss your topic in some depth. I encourage you to use the week's subject matter to inspire your search of current events. Your submission should be 2 pages in length and discuss the relationship of the event to course material of the week, your analysis, and your opinions about the subject.

Paper guidelines will be discussed and handed out during the quarter. All assignments are to be turned in through Canvas.

Meet One-on-One: Completed by Friday, October 16th

Midterm: Friday, October 30th

Paper Proposal: Due Friday, November 13th

Final Paper: Due Tuesday, December 8th @ 5pm

TEXTS

Class readings are either available on Canvas or are readily available on the internet.

COURSE POLICIES

Expectations

This is a college-level course, which means you are responsible for your own learning. Expectations include: completing assignments by the date/time listed in the syllabus; coming to class prepared to discuss the day's readings; bringing reading materials to class; participating in classroom discussions; fulfilling course requirements missed during absences; knowing the syllabus and using it as your first reference; and taking initiative to answer questions about content and assignments.

Rules of Engagement

This course involves discussion of controversial political issues. We will be respectful of each other and avoiding inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases, and labels. I encourage robust discussion of contentious issues, however be prepared to support provocative claims with evidence. Please note that all electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom during class time unless necessary to note taking. If an overwhelming need to check the interwebs persists, please leave the classroom to do so. Students engaging in extracurricular electronic usage will lose participation points for the day's class. You may or may not be informed of this deduction at the time, due to the distraction it causes to the class.

Missed Exams and Assignments

All major due dates are indicated in the attached course schedule. Late work will be penalized 5 points a day. Please note that all missed exams will receive a grade of 0 and make-up exams will not be administered unless you receive prior permission from me or you can document a true catastrophe.

Grade Dispute Policy

- 1) Wait 24 hours to contact me about disputing a grade
- 2) Submit your reason for contention in writing (at least 500 words) within 5 days
- 3) I reserve the right to change grades (higher or lower) after considering your comments

Disability Resources

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the DRC if you have any questions about classroom accommodations. If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC staff as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call the reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit the DRC website for application information into the program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc. If you are someone who has either an apparent or non-apparent disability and requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with me to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College (http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_%28Procedures%29.asp). Such behavior will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment/exam in question. Please note that these are serious offences, which can result in possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. If you have questions about academic integrity, please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct and/or come talk to me during my office hours.

Cases of suspected cheating and plagiarism will be referred to the dean and an Academic Honesty Violation Report will be filed. University policies and guidelines regarding cheating and plagiarism will be followed strictly. Please see the Academic Honesty Policy for specific information about what constitutes plagiarism.

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus over the course of the quarter.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- 1) Monday, September 21 – Introduction and Syllabus Review
No readings
- 2) Tuesday, September 22 – What is Political Science and Why Should We Care?
Self-Directed Research & Readings
- 3) Wednesday, September 23 – Legitimate Power & Political Theory
Thomas Hobbes: *Leviathan*, Chapters 13-15 (1651)
- 4) Thursday, September 24 – Property & Power
John Locke: *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapter 5 (1689)
- 5) Friday, September 25 – Current Events
- 6) Monday, September 28 – Critical Theory
Karl Marx: Selections from *Communist Manifesto* (1848)
- 7) Tuesday, September 29 – Revolution
Karl Marx: Selections from *Communist Manifesto* cont.
Thomas Jefferson: *Declaration of Independence* (1776)
- 8) Wednesday, September 30 – Revolution
Thomas Jefferson: *Declaration of Independence* cont.
Franz Fanon: Selections from *Wretched of the Earth* (1961)
- 9) Thursday, October 1 – Revolution
Franz Fanon: Selections from *Wretched of the Earth* cont.
- 10) Friday, October 2 – Current Events
- 11) Monday, October 5 – Cooperation & Self-Governance
Fran Korton: “No Panaceas! – Interview with Elinor Ostrom” (2010)
- 12) Tuesday, October 6 – Creating a Nation
In-Class Project
- 13) Wednesday, October 7 – Creating a Nation
In-Class Project
- 14) Thursday, October 8 – Creating a Nation
In-Class Project
- 15) Friday, October 9 – Law & Justice (No Class)
Film: *The Central Park Five*
- 16) Monday, October 12 – Law & Justice
Franz Kafka – “Before the Law” in *The Trial* (1925)

- 17) Tuesday, October 13 – Law & Justice
Martin Luther King Jr. – “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963)
- 18) Wednesday, October 14 – Law & Justice
Martin Luther King Jr. – “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963) cont.
Frances Zemans, “Legal Mobilization: The Neglected Role of the Law in the Political System,”
American Political Science Review 77 (1983): 690-703.
- 19) Thursday, October 15 – Law & Justice
Frances Zemans, “Legal Mobilization: The Neglected Role of the Law in the Political System,”
American Political Science Review 77 (1983): 690-703. cont.
- 20) Friday, October 16 – Current Events (One-on-One Meetings Completed)
- 21) Monday, October 19 – International Politics
Thucydides – “The Melian Dialogue” from *History of the Peloponnesian War* (400 B.C.)
- 22) Tuesday, October 20 – International Politics (No class)
Kenneth N. Waltz – “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” in *International Politics*
- 23) Wednesday, October 21 – International Politics
Kenneth N. Waltz – “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” in *International Politics* cont.
- 24) Thursday, October 22 – International Politics
Basel Peace Office – “The Prisoners’ Dilemma and the Problem of Cooperation”
Kenneth Roth – “Obama’s Prisoners’ Dilemma” in *Foreign Affairs* (2009)
- 25) Friday, October 23 – Current Events
- 26) Monday, October 26 – Comparing Nations
Charles Tilly – “War Making & State Making as Organized Crime” in *Bringing the State Back In*
(1985)
- 27) Tuesday, October 27 – Comparing Nations
Charles Tilly – “War Making & State Making as Organized Crime” in *Bringing the State Back In*
(1985) cont.
Mancur Olson – “Dictatorship, Democracy, & Development” (1993)
- 28) Wednesday, October 28 – Comparing Nations
Mancur Olson – “Dictatorship, Democracy, & Development” (1993) cont.
- 29) Thursday, October 29 – Midterm Review
- 30) Friday, October 30 – Midterm
- 31) Monday, November 2 – Paper Proposal Orientation
- 32) Tuesday, November 3 – Radical Responses
Emma Goldman: *Anarchism - What it Really Stands For* (1911)

- 33) Wednesday, November 4 – Radical Responses/Labor & Work
Emma Goldman: *Anarchism - What it Really Stands For* (1911) cont.
Eugene V. Debs: Selections from *Industrial Unionism*
- 34) Thursday, November 5 – Labor & Work
Eugene V. Debs: Selections from *Industrial Unionism* cont.
- 35) Friday, November 6 – Current Events
- 36) Monday, November 9 – Patriotism
Peter Beinart: “The War Over Patriotism” (2008)
Howard Zinn & Noam Chomsky: Interview w/ Amy Goodman (2007)
- 37) Tuesday, November 10 – War & Militarism
Howard Zinn & Noam Chomsky: Interview w/ Amy Goodman (2007) cont.
John Kerry: Congressional Testimony – “Vietnam Veterans Against the War” (1971)
- 38) Wednesday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day (No class)
- 39) Thursday, November 12 – War & Militarism
Dwight D. Eisenhower: “Military Industrial Complex Speech” (1960)
George W. Bush: “The National Security Strategy” (2006)
- 40) Friday, November 13 – Current Events (Paper Proposal Due)
- 41) Monday, November 16 – Framing, Citizen Knowledge, & Participation
Andrew Romano: “How Dumb Are We?” (2011)
Brooks Jackson & Kathleen Hall Jamieson: “Tricks of the Deception Trade” in *upSpin*
- 42) Tuesday, November 17 – Elections
Michael Parenti: “Voters, Parties, and Stolen Elections”
- 43) Wednesday, November 18 – Economics, Wealth, & Inequality
Robert Costanza: “The Real Economy”
John Cassidy: “Piketty’s Inequality Story in Six Charts” (2014)
- 44) Thursday, November 19 – Economics, Wealth, & Inequality
Michael Parenti: “Politics: Who Gets What?”
- 45) Friday, November 20 – Current Events
- 46) Monday, November 23 – Social Movements
Steve Vanderheiden: *Eco-terrorism or Justified Resistance? Radical Environmentalism and the “War On Terror”* (2005)
- 47) Tuesday, November 24 – Social Movements
Steve Vanderheiden: *Eco-terrorism or Justified Resistance? Radical Environmentalism and the “War On Terror”* (2005) cont.
Wendy Brown: “Return of a Repressed Res-Publica” (2011)

- 48) Wednesday, November 25 – Current Events
- 49) Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- 50) Friday, November 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- 51) Monday, November 30 – Class Presentations
- 52) Tuesday, December 1 – Class Presentations
- 53) Wednesday, December 2 – Class Presentations
- 54) Thursday, December 3 – Class Presentations
- 55) Friday, December 4 – Class Presentations
- 56) Tuesday, December 8 – Class Presentations/Class Wrap-Up & Reflection