

Political Science 101
Introduction to Political Science
Mr. Grey
Fall, 2005

Carnegie 309, Ext. 3147
1109 Main St., 236-1043
Office hours: 2:15-3:05, M- F

This course has a number of goals. One is to introduce you to some of the central issues of politics and political science. One central question will be the question of the continued relevance of the state as the central object of concern. We will also ask who participates in politics, how, why and with what consequences they do so. While these two foci will utilize heavily materials from American politics, a third focus, will be on international variations in the character of political institutions. Another, extremely vital, purpose of the course is to examine competing ways of thinking about and explaining these variations.

The emphasis of the course will be on your development of both new perspectives and new analytic skills. To promote the former goal, we will read authors whose positions differ greatly from each other's and, probably, from those you hold. You will be forced to confront arguments which challenge your existing understanding of how politics work and how they should work. Hopefully that will make the course more stimulating. It will certainly make it more unsettling.

Your analytic skills can be exercised only after very careful reading of the assigned texts. It will not be enough to merely understand the general thrust of an author's arguments. You will have to also understand the logic of the argument and the character of the supporting evidence. That understanding will be demonstrated in (and improved by) class discussion, in which we will carefully articulate and critique the author's arguments, and by two papers. There will also be two take-home exams, a mid-sem and a final.

The reading assignments and all written work are due on the date specified in this syllabus. Written work turned in late will be lowered a grade for each day late. The two papers and the mid-sem exam will each count twenty percent of the final grade, with the final counting the remaining forty percent. Given the emphasis on class discussion, I reserve the right to reward class participation.

BOOKS TO BUY

Course Packet

American Political Science Association, **American Democracy in an Age of Rising Inequality**
Robert Dahl, **How Democratic is the American Constitution**
W. Phillips Shively, **Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science, 9th Edition**

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Two papers, the first, due, Sept. 9, the second due Nov. 16. Two take-home exams, the mid-sem due on Oct. 14, and the final due on the scheduled exam date.

ASSIGNED READINGS-

Aug. 26 - Introduction: Government: What is it (for)?

POLITICS AND POWER

Aug. 29 - Shively, Ch.1

Aug. 31 - Bachrach and Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," Packet, 175-184

Sept. 02 - No class

Sept. 05 - Digeser, "The Fourth Face of Power," Packet, 977-979

COMPETING IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS ON GOVERNMENT, POLITICS AND POWER

Sept. 07 - Shively, Ch. 2

THE STATE AS THE UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Sept. 09 - Shively, Ch. 3, first paper due

Sept. 12 - Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," Packet

Sept. 14 - Greider, "The Global Marketplace: A Closet Dictator," To be distributed

Sept. 16 - Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," Packet

THE STATE AS A DOMESTIC ACTOR

Sept. 19 - Shively, Ch. 4

Sept. 21 - Shively, Ch. 5

Sept. 23 - Shively, Ch. 6

TYPES OF STATE

Sept. 26 - Shively, Ch. 8

Sept. 28 - Phillippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," **Journal of Democracy**, to be distributed

Sept. 30 - David Beetham, "Freedom is the Foundation," **Journal of Democracy**,
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v015/15.4beetham.html

Oct. 03 - Dahl, Chs. 1 and 2

Oct. 05 - Dahl, Chs. 3 and 4

Oct. 07 - No Class

Oct. 10 - Dahl, Chs. 5 and 6

Oct. 12 - Dahl, Ch. 7

Oct. 14 -Mid-sem Exam Due

Fall Break

TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY

Oct. 24 - Shively, pp. 302-312

Oct. 26 - Samuel P. Huntington, "After Twenty Years: the Future of the Third Wave,"

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v008/8.4huntington.html

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Oct. 28 - Shively, Ch. 7

Oct. 31 - American Democracy in an Age of Rising Inequality"

Nov. 02 - Arend Lijphart, "Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma," Packet,

Nov. 04 - No Class

Nov. 07 - Highton & Wolfinger, "The Political Implications of Higher Turnout." To be distributed

Nov. 09 - Shively, Ch. 12

Nov. 11 - Shively, Ch. 13, pp. 297-302

Nov. 14 - Robert Putnam, "America's Declining Social Capital," Packet

Nov. 16 - SECOND PAPER DUE

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Nov. 18 - Shively, Ch. 9

Nov. 21 - Shively, Ch. 10

Nov. 23 - Shively, Ch. 11

Nov. 28 - Shively, Ch. 14

Nov. 30 - Shively, Ch. 15

Dec. 02 - Shively, Ch. 16

Dec. 05 - Shively, Ch. 17

THE STATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTOR

Dec. 07 - Shively, Ch. 18

Dec. 09 - Catch-up