Political Science 101
Introduction to Political Science
Mr. Grey
Fall, 2009

Carnegie 309, Ext. 3147
1109 Main St., 236-1043
Office hours: 11-11:50, M, T, W;
4:15-5:00 M-Th.

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 primary object of political 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


Other Reading Assignments

Phillippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, “What Democracy Is...and Is Not,” *Journal of Democracy*, to be distributed

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS
Two papers, the first, due Sept. 29, the second due. Two take-home exams, the mid-sem due on Oct. 15th, and the final due on the scheduled exam date.

ASSIGNED READINGS -

Aug. 31 - Introduction: Government: What is it (for)?

POLITICS AND POWER

Sept. 2 - Shively, Ch. 1

IDEOLOGY AND POLITICS

Sept. 7 - Shively, Ch. 2
Sept. 9 - Converse

THE STATE AS THE UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Sept. 14 - Shively, Ch. 3
Sept. 16 - Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy,”
Sept. 23 - Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,”

THE STATE AS A DOMESTIC ACTOR

Sept. 28 - Shively, Ch. 4; First Paper Due – Topic: Despite forces undermining the centrality of the state, states will remain the predominant political actors in the world

Sept. 30 - Shively, Ch. 5
Oct. 2 - Shively, Ch. 6

TYPES OF STATE

Oct. 5 - Shively, Ch. 7, except for pages 151-59
Oct. 7 - Schmitter and Karl

THINKING AND WRITING LIKE AN ACADEMIC

Oct. 12 – Graf and Birkenstein, Preface, Intro, Chs. 1-5;
Oct. 14 - Graf and Birkenstein, Chs. 6-10

**Mid-Sem due**

FALL BREAK

TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY

Oct. 26 – Shively, pp. 151-59; Samuel P. Huntington, “After Twenty Years

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Oct. 28 – Lijphart; Shively, Ch. 8
Nov. 2 – Highton and Wolfinger
Nov. 4 – Fiorina, Both Prefaces, Chs. 1-4
Nov. 9 – Fiorina, Chs. 5-7
Nov. 11 – Fiorina, Chs. 8-10; Mockabee

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Nov. 16 - Shively, Ch. 9-10
Nov. 18 - Shively, Ch. 11
Nov. 23 - SECOND PAPER DUE
Nov. 25 - Shively, Ch. 14
Nov. 30 – Shively, Ch. 15
Dec. 2 – Shively, Ch. 16
Dec. 7 – Shively, Ch. 17

POLITICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Dec. 9 – Shively, Ch. 18