

**GRINNELL COLLEGE**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Spring 2005**  
**POL 101**  
**Introduction to Political Science**

**Professor Eliza Willis**  
**Carnegie 103**  
**Office Hours: TWTH**  
**2:15-4:05**

This course will introduce you to the fundamental concepts and forms of analysis applied by political scientists to the study of political phenomena. Political scientists embrace a diversity of approaches and focus on a broad set of issues and institutions, both domestic and international. The main objective of this course is to provide you with some analytical tools that will expand and enhance your understanding of the contemporary political world.

**Required Texts**

W. Phillips Shively                      *Power and Choice*  
M. Fiorina                                      *Culture War?*

Because class discussion will often turn to contemporary political issues, I expect you to keep informed by reading, on a regular basis, at least one of the following publications: *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, or *The Economist*. Subscriptions for the NYT are available through the bookstore. You may also follow the NYT and some other publications online.

This semester we have an opportunity to follow the Iraqi elections and the formation of a new constitutional regime. At various points in the semester we will discuss the relevance of specific course readings for understanding Iraqi politics. On occasion I will add short readings on the current situation in Iraq to the normal reading load. During the final week of the semester the class as a whole will work together to write a new Iraqi constitution.

**Course Requirements and Policies\***

Mid-term Examination	25%
Papers (3)	25%
Class participation	25%
Final Exam	25%

***Class Participation and Attendance***

Throughout the semester you will be encouraged to refine and enlarge your conceptual skills by learning how to read and to discuss texts for major and minor themes, internal logic, and the implications of arguments. Class discussion is an essential component of the requirements for

this course. Because the progress and quality of discussion depends as much on you as it does on me, it is imperative that you prepare reading assignments on the day they are due.

Attendance will be taken daily. **Students who have more than four unexcused absences will receive an F for the participation portion their grade.** You are also expected to participate in class discussions on a regular basis. I expect you to be prepared to answer questions based on the reading assignment. You should notify me before class if you do not wish to participate in a specific discussion. You may exercise this option twice during the semester.

***Exam and Paper Due Dates***

Mid-term Exam	March 15
Final Exam	May 18
Paper #1	February 3
Paper #2	February 24 (Revised Version Due April 7)
Paper #3	April 26

***Late Papers and Missed Exams***

Students are expected to take all exams and quizzes as scheduled and submit written assignments when they are due. Papers submitted after the due date will be assessed a penalty of one-half a letter grade a day until received. No paper will be accepted more than one week after the deadline.

***Pass/Fail Students***

Students taking this course pass/fail are expected to attend class regularly and meet all course requirements. Failure to meet any of these requirements (including attendance) to my satisfaction will result in a failing grade for the course.

***Students with Special Needs***

I encourage students with documented disabilities, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, attention deficit/hyperactive disorder, psychiatric disabilities to discuss with me, after class or during my office hours, appropriate accommodations. You will also need to provide documentation of your disability to the Associate Dean and Director of Academic Advising, Joyce Stern, located in the lower level of the Forum (x3702).

***Statement on Academic Honesty***

Please keep in mind that I expect the highest level of integrity on the part of Grinnell students who enroll in my courses. Before beginning work on your papers or take-home exams, I recommend that you visit the page on citation posted by the Writing Lab. The link to that site is <http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/writinglab/ethicaluse/>. You are permitted to take your take-home exam to the Writing Lab though you should not collaborate with other students when completing them. If you have any questions or uncertainties about my expectations, please ask me directly. I abide by the College's stated policy on academic honesty and will submit all suspected cases of academic dishonesty directly to the Committee on Academic Standing.

## Topics and Assigned Readings\*

### I Course Introduction: What is Politics? What is Political Science?

1/25 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Chapter 1, pp. 3-17

### II The Concept and Analysis of Power

1/27 Shively, *Power and Choice*, pp. 36-38  
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, excerpts, *Blackboard*

2/1 **Film:** *A Man for All Seasons*

2/3 Bachrach, Peter and Baratz, Morton, "The Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56 (1962): 947-953 *Blackboard*

#### *Paper #1 Due*

2/8 Lukes, Steven, *Power: A Radical View*, (London: Macmillan, 1974) excerpts, handout

2/10 Digeser, Peter "The Fourth Face of Power," *Journal of Politics* 54 (November 1992)  
*Blackboard*

### III Modern Political Ideologies

2/15 Shively, *Power and Choice*, pp. 19-36  
Sullivan, Andrew "Why the Old Labels Don't Stick" *Blackboard*  
O'Sullivan, John "Types of Right" *Blackboard*

### IV The State and the Nation: What Is the Relationship Between Them?

2/17 Shively, *Power and Choice*, pp. 43-60  
Lind, Michael, "In Defense of Liberal Nationalism," *Foreign Affairs* May/June 1994, Vo. 73, Issue 3 *Blackboard*

### V Policies of the State, Political Choices and Modes of Decision-Making

2/22 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Chapter 5, "Economic Policy and the Political Economy of the State" pp. 100-115; 118-121  
"Rent Seeking in Mexico" handout

2/24 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 4, "Policies of the State", pp. 75-92  
Lipset, Seymour Martin and Marks, Gary "Social Democracy Lives On" *New Statesman* Vol. 129 4492 *Blackboard*

#### *Paper #2 Due*

3/1 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 6, “Political Choices: The Problems of Justice and Efficiency,” pp. 132-147  
Hochschild, Jennifer *What's Fair? American Beliefs about Distributive Justice* handout

3/3 Hardin, Garrett, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” *Science* 162, 1243 (1968) *Blackboard*

## **VI The Citizen and the State**

3/8 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 7, “Authority and Legitimacy: The State and the Citizen”, pp. 155-177

Putnam, Robert, “Strange Disappearance of Civic America,” *American Prospect* (Winter 1996) *Blackboard*

Ladd, Everett C., “The Data Just Don’t Show Erosion of America’s ‘Social Capital,’” *Public Perspective* (7 June/July 1996) *Blackboard*

3/10 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 8, “Democracy and Autocracy” pp. 179-195  
Readings on the Baath Party in Iraq *Blackboard*

## **3/15 Mid-Term Examination**

## **VII Political Institutions and Political Participation**

3/17 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 10, “Elections”

## **Spring Break 3/18-4/4**

4/5 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 11, “Parties: A Leading and Linking Mechanism in Politics”

4/7 Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 12, “Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics”

### ***Rewrite of Paper #2 Due***

4/12 Olson, Mancur “The Logic of Collective Action” *Blackboard*

Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 13 “Social Movements and Contentious Politics”

## **VIII Is US Political Opinion Polarized? Popular Opinion versus Political Science Analysis**

4/14 Frank Rich, “On ‘Moral Values,’ It’s Blue in a Landslide” *Blackboard*  
Fiorina, *Culture War?* Chapters 1-3

4/19 Fiorina, *Culture War?* Chapters 4-5

4/21 Fiorina, *Culture War?*, Chapters 6-8

## **IX Constitutions and the Design of Governments**

### **4/26 A. The Territorial Division of Power**

Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 9, “Constitutions and the Design of Government”, pp. 205-217

Federalist #51 *Blackboard*

***Paper #3 Due***

### **4/28 B. Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government**

Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 14, “National Decision-Making Institutions: Parliamentary Government, pp. 315-325

5/3 Shively, *Power and Choice*, National Decision-Making Institutions: Presidential Government,”Ch. 15, pp. 334-350

## **X Designing a New Constitution for Iraq**

5/5- Class Exercise

5/10 Readings to Be Assigned

**XI** Shively, *Power and Choice*, Ch. 18, “Global Politics: Politics Among States”

**Final Exam Wednesday, May 18**

**\*\*I reserve the right to make changes in course requirements and reading assignments.**