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/](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**

*Paper #1 Due*


III  Modern Political Ideologies
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
“Rent Seeking in Mexico” handout
Lipset, Seymour Martin and Marks, Gary “Social Democracy Lives On” *New Statesman* Vol. 129 4492  *Blackboard*

*Paper #2 Due*
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**

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

Readings on the Baath Party in Iraq *Blackboard*

3/15 **Mid-Term Examination**

VII **Political Institutions and Political Participation**


Spring Break 3/18-4/4


*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**

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

Federalist #51 *Blackboard*

*Paper #3 Due*

4/28  B. Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government


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.**