

Course Outline & Lecture Topics

Aug. 23	<u>Course Introduction</u> What is Politics? Varied Perspectives Same key concepts: Power-Authority Nation- State Freedom-Equality The Challenge of Political Science: Breakdown of Discipline Integration and Fragmentation (Garand) The Curse of Politics The Enduring Relevance of Politics	Parsons, Chap. 1 & 4
Aug. 30	<u>The Emergence of Political Consciousness: Political Theory</u> Thought Leaders vs. Public Intellectuals The Ancients: Aristotle vs. Plato The Moderns: Hobbes vs. Locke Other key theorists	Parsons, Chap. 2
Sept. 06	<u>Test 1 (Due)</u>	
Sept. 06-13	<u>The Key Ideologies: Then vs. Now</u> Conservatism Liberalism Socialism/Marxism Anarchism Feminism Third World-ism	Parsons, Chap. 3 & 5
Sept. 20	<u>American Government: Is the "City on the Hill" fading?</u> The Roots: The Natives, The Settlers, The Slaves & All The Traits: The Presidential System State vs. Federal Jurisdiction Other Aspects of the System (Students' in-put) The Novelty: Rise of Donald Trump How did he come to power and what does this mean?	
Sept. 27	<u>Political Socialism & Participation</u> The Good Citizen Idea Political Parties and Interest Groups Election and Protests Also: Review session/discuss "Taking Sides" paper topics	Parsons, Chap. 5 & 6

Oct. 04	<u>Midterm Exam</u> (in class): Short essay, definitions, multiple choice	
Oct. 11-18	<u>Comparative Politics: The Variety across Countries</u> The Thematic vs. Case Study Approaches Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems The Western World: France & Britain The Marxist/Post Marxist: China & Russia The Third World Types: Mexico & India Military/Religious Types: Thailand/Nigeria & Iran/Saudi Arabia	Parsons, Chap. 5, 7, 8, & 11
Oct. 25-Nov. 08	<u>International Relations: How the World Works</u> Theories-Actors-Processes Change and Continuity The Enduring Nation State Realism and Idealism Conflict and Cooperation World Government vs. Global Governance	Parsons, Chap. 12 & 13
Nov. 08	<u>Test II</u> (Due: multiple choice/take home)	
Nov. 15	<u>Political Economy: Governments as Salesmen</u> Domestically: The Tax Debate Internationally: The Trade Debate Dwindling Interdependence? Brexit and Trump <u>Public Administration: The Bureaucracy</u> Civil Service: Efficiency vs. Corruption The Deep State Idea <u>Taking Sides Paper Due</u> (3 pages)	Parsons, Chap. 9 & 10
Nov. 29	<u>Conclusion: In 'Praise' of Politics</u> Presentation of Taking Sides paper (5 min. each) Review session	
Dec. 06	<u>Final Exam</u> (in class; 3:30-5:30pm)	