

POLI 1001-02
Fundamental Issues of Politics
Fall 2017
W 3:30-6:30pm
218 Coates

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba
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Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00
MWF 11:30-12:30
MW 2:00-3:00

OBJECTIVE: This course is mostly designed as an introduction to what goes on in political science. It seeks to open doors to understanding the issues that preoccupy politics. How did political thinking emerge? How much value should we attach to political imagination in today's world? Why is politics the object of so much "curse" and what is there to say in "praise" of politics?

POLI 1001 strives toward learning competency; in particular:

- the ability to think, describe, and analyze politics in all its forms
- to understand the decision-making process involved not just in politics, but in our own daily lives
- to use ideas and concepts learned in class to gain general knowledge

By the end of the semester, it is expected that students should come to accept politics as a vital academic tool for everyday existence.

TEXT: There is one textbook required for this course, and needs to be purchased by everyone:

Craig Parsons: *Introduction to Political Science: How to Think for Yourself about Politics* Pearson, 2017

You should also keep in touch with the kind of political news stories, as published in The New York Times, and its opinion page.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:

- Attend all class sessions
- Get involved in class discussions
- Be knowledgeable in ongoing events
- Apply material learned in class to papers, exams, and other assignments

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Class participation	10pts
Test I	10pts (Sept. 06)
Midterm	20pts (Oct. 04)
Test II	10pts (Nov. 08)
Taking Sides Paper	20pts (Nov. 15)
Final	<u>30pts</u> (Dec. 06; 3:30-5:30)
	100pts

A+	100-95	B+	86.9-85	C+	76.9-75	D+	66.9-65	F	below 57
A	94.9-90	B	84.9-80	C	74.9-70	D	64.9-60		
A-	89.9-87	B-	79.9-77	C-	69.9-67	D-	59-57		

Course Outline & Lecture Topics

Aug. 23	<u>Course Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Politics? Varied Perspectives• Same key concepts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Power-AuthorityNation- StateFreedom-Equality• The Challenge of Political Science:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Breakdown of DisciplineIntegration 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Roots: The Natives, The Settlers, The Slaves & All• The Traits: The Presidential System<ul style="list-style-type: none">State vs. Federal JurisdictionOther Aspects of the System (Students’ in-put)• The Novelty: Rise of Donald Trump<ul style="list-style-type: none">How did he come to power and what does this mean?	
Sept. 27	<u>Political Socialism & Participation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories-Actors-Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestically: The Tax Debate • Internationally: The Trade Debate • Dwindling Interdependence? Brexit and Trump <u>Public Administration: The Bureaucracy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Taking Sides paper (5 min. each) • Review session 	
Dec. 06	<u>Final Exam</u> (in class; 3:30-5:30pm)	