
FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN POLITICS in Spring 2021 (PO1011)

Course Code	PO1011	Professor(s)	Peter Haegel
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L17
Class Schedule	M: 12:10-13:30 in C-102 R: 12:10-13:30 in C-104	Office Hours	Mon + Thu 15h15-16h15
Credits	4	Email	phaegel@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

What is politics – the quest for the common good (Plato, 360 BCE) or who gets what, when, and how (Lasswell, 1936)? This course introduces you to the study of politics by reading many (excerpts from) foundational texts of political science and political theory, which we will discuss in relation to current affairs.

The readings and our debates in class will provide you with a historical understanding of what defines political modernity: states and nations in the international system, collective action and representation in mass societies, racial and gender inequalities, trajectories of democracy and dictatorship, politics and development in the context of capitalism. We study how the individual relates to her/his political system: how interests form and compete, how political parties and interest groups act as intermediaries between the individual and the state, how social change and contention might transform politics.

A key objective is to discover and understand the concerns, the language, and the methods of political science. Thus, you will develop an analytical understanding of core concepts such as *power*, *authority*, *democracy*, *collective action*, *interests*, or *social capital*. Simultaneously, you will explore how major theoretical approaches differ in their interpretation and explanation of political reality, as well as in the normative models and demands that they advance.

This is a discussion course, and students are expected to participate actively in debate during class.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will learn the basic structures and processes in modern politics.

Students will learn the most important concepts, theories and methods in political science. Students will learn to develop analytical arguments about continuity and change in modern politics.

Students will learn to engage constructively in discussions about politics by substantiating normative viewpoints with empirical evidence and analytical rigor.

Students will be able to engage in the writing practices and culture of your chosen major, adding to the skills acquired in the Research, Interpretation, and Writing classes to develop a personal, authentic disciplinary voice. (CCR)

General Education

This course can be used to fulfill the Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR) requirement of AUP's Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) and as such has the following learning outcomes:

- You will be able to engage in the writing practices and culture of your chosen major, adding to the skills you acquired in the Research, Interpretation, and Writing classes to develop a personal, authentic disciplinary voice.

Course Outline

1. Politics and Political Science

18 January: Introduction + practical matters

21 January:

Plato (428-348 BCE): *The Republic* (excerpt)

Aristotle (384-323 BCE): *Politics* (excerpt)

24 January: Last day to DROP/ADD courses

25 January:

Weber, Max 1918: 'Politics as a Vocation', in: Owen, David, and Tracy B. Strong (eds) 2004: *The Vocation Lectures*, Indianapolis: Hackett, pp. 32-94, esp. 32-55, 83("This is the crucial point...")-94.

Lasswell, Harold D. 1950 [1936]: *Politics: Who Gets What, When and How*. New York: Peter Smith, [Browse](#) 1-25, esp. 1-14, 18-21 (don't worry about details, just try to get a feel for his approach to politics).

2. Power

28 January:

Weber, Max 2019 [1922]: *Economy and society. I : A new translation*. Edited and translated by Keith Tribe. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 338-348, 353-359, 374-378.

Dahl, Robert 1957: 'The Concept of Power', in: *Behavioral Science* 2: 201-215. (In: Bell, Roderick/ Edwards, David V./ Wagner, R. Harrison (eds) 1969: *Political Power: A Reader in Theory and Research*. New York: The Free Press, 79-83).

1 February:

Arendt, Hannah 1970: *On Violence*. London: Allen Lane the Penguin Press, pp. 43-56.

Bachrach, Peter/ Baratz, Morton S. 1962: 'Two Faces of Power', in: *American Political Science Review* 56/4: 947-952.

Foucault, Michel 1982: 'The Subject and Power', in: *Critical Inquiry* 8/4: 777-795, [read](#) esp. 785-793.

3. The State

4 February:

Machiavelli, Niccolò 1532: *The Prince* (excerpts)

Hobbes, Thomas 1651, *Leviathan* (excerpts)

8-10 February: Mini-break 1, no class

11 February:

Held, David 1995: *Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Governance*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 31-72.

15 February:

Allison, Graham T. 1969: Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis, in: *American Political Science Review* 63/3: 689-718.

4. The Nation

18 February:

Renan, Ernest 1882: 'What is a Nation?' – [read](#) 11, [browse](#) pp. 13-21, [read](#) 23-51.

Gellner, Ernest 1983: *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1-7 + 55-62 (63-75).

Du Bois, W.E.B 1903: "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", in *The Souls of Black Folk*, online: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/408/408-h/408-h.htm#chap021>.

22 February:

Anderson, Benedict 1991 [1983]: *Imagined Communities*. 2nd revised and extended edition. London: Verso, [read](#) 4(The aim of this book...)-7, 36(Before proceeding...)-46, then [browse](#) 163-186, then [read](#) 187-206.

Further reading: Marx, Anthony W. 1996: Race-Making and the Nation-State, in: *World Politics* 48/2: 180-208.

24-28 February: Mini-break 2, no class!

5. Democracy and Dictatorship

1 March:

Locke, John (1690): *Second Treatise of Government*. (excerpt)

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1762): *The Social Contract*. (excerpt)

Kant, Immanuel: *Theory and Practice*. (excerpt)

de Gouges, Olympe 1791: *Declaration of the Rights of Woman*, online: <https://revolution.chnm.org/exhibits/show/liberty--equality--fraternity/item/557>.

4 March:

Moore, Barrington 1993 [1967]: *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon, xvii-xxv, 3-39.

6. Politics and Development

8 March:

Lipset, Seymour Martin 1959: 'Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy', in: *American Political Science Review* 53/1: 69-105. [Read](#) 69-85, [browse](#) the rest.

Huntington, Samuel 1968: *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale UP. Read 1-11, 32-39 + 53("The Gap Hypothesis")-58, browse the rest.

11 March:

Inglehart, Ronald/ Welzel, Christian 2005: *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1-47.

7. Political Agency and Collective Action

15 March:

Madison, James 1787: *Federalist Paper* No. 10.

Marx, Karl/ Engels, Friedrich 1848: *Manifesto of the Communist Party*: Part I, in Tucker, Robert C. (ed.) 1978: *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: W.W. Norton: 473-483.

Seneca Falls Declaration 1848. Online: <https://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/democrac/17.htm>

Truth, Sojourner 1851: "Ain't I A Woman?" Women's Convention, Akron (Ohio), online: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/sojtruth-woman.asp>

18 March:

Giddens, Anthony 1984: *The Constitution of Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press, concentrate on pages 3("It is the specifically...)-17 and 23("I distinguish 'structure'")-25, the rest is optional.

+ Jacobs, Lawrence R. and Desmond S. King 2010: 'Varieties of Obamaism: Structure, Agency, and the Obama Presidency', in: *Perspectives on Politics* 8/3: 793-802.

22 March:

Michels, Robert 1962 [1911]: *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy*. New York: The Free Press, 15-20, 364-371.

Olson, Mancur 1965: *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1-16 and 33("Non-technical summary"...)-43.

8. Political Culture

25 March:

Geertz, Clifford 1973: 'Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture' & 'Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight'. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York. Basic Books.

29 March:

Banfield, Edward 1958: *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society*. New York: The Free Press, 7-11, 17-22, 31-32, 83-88, 139-145, 163, 166.

Putnam, Robert 1993: *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 163-185.

9. Contention and Revolution

1 April:

Sewell, William 1985: 'Review: Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case', in: *The Journal of Modern History* 57/1: 57-85.

Skocpol, Theda 1985: 'Cultural Idioms and Political Ideologies in the Revolutionary Reconstruction of State Power: A Rejoinder to Sewell', in: *The Journal of Modern History* 57/1: 86-96.

2 April: Last day to withdraw from a course or to choose CR/NC grading option

10. Politics and Markets

5 April: Easter Monday (no class)

8 April:

Smith, Adam (1723-1790): *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) (excerpts)

Friedman, Milton 1962: *Capitalism and Freedom*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (ch. 2: 'The Role of Government in a Free Society').

12 April:

Polanyi, Karl 1957 [1944]: *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press. (ch. 4, 5 + 6)

15 April:

Lindblom, Charles 1977: *Politics and Markets*. New York: Basic Books, read 170-200 + 356, optional: 201-213.

11. Politics and the Media

19 April:

Habermas, Jürgen (2006). Political Communication in Media Society: Does Democracy Still Enjoy an Epistemic Dimension? The Impact of Normative Theory on Empirical Research. *Communication Theory* 16: 411–426

12. The International System

22 April:

Waltz, Kenneth 1959: *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia UP. (excerpts)

Further reading: Tickner, J. Ann 1992: "Man, the State and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security" in *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security* (Columbia University Press)

26 April:

Doyle, Michael 1986: 'Liberalism and World Politics', in: *American Political Science Review* 80/4 (December): 1151-1169.

Final exam on 10 May 2021, 18h30-21h00

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED

WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

a. Class participation	15%	
b. Weekly responses to one of the guiding questions on our course readings	20%	
c. Critical review of selected course readings	30%	
d. Final exam in the format of a critical review	35%	

Students are expected to have prepared the assigned readings prior to the class session

If you miss a written exercise without valid justification, your grade for the missed exam will be F.

I reserve **A** for outstanding work, demonstrating superior effort, mastery of information and understanding of concepts. A grade of **B** indicates a solid effort, a good grasp of information, and above-average comprehension of concepts. A grade of **C** reflects a minimally acceptable effort and comprehension, while a grade of **C-** or below indicates results that are less than satisfactory.

Class-participation

An excellent class-participation grade will depend on consistent attendance, regular active participation, as well as the ability to respond to and to respect classmates’ contributions and views. Simple attendance without participation will earn you a class-participation grade of C.

Weekly responses

Once per week, students will write a response to one of the guiding questions, which come with each course reading on Blackboard. The response should be a short paragraph (around five sentences), submitted in your Blackboard Student Journal (under “Assignments”) BEFORE the class starts in which the course reading is being discussed. The final grade will be for all responses together, but I will provide interim feedback throughout the semester.

Critical reviews (one during the semester, one as the final exam):

Students will write a paper (strictly limited to 5 pages) reviewing the required readings of a set of classes. These papers will compare and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis/arguments of the texts. In grading, I will favour analysis over description, and will be looking for critical insight, systematic thinking, and creativity. (30% each)

- You are expected to analyze – rather than summarize – your topic, and to develop your argument(s) convincingly.
- Your writing should be coherent. Help the reader to follow your line of reasoning by making it explicit: An introduction should outline what you will present and why it is interesting. The main body should develop your argument(s) step by step, and a conclusion should sum them up in a final evaluation.
- Imagine that the reader is **unfamiliar** with both the topic/question and the sources you are discussing.

All written work must be your own. **Students submitting plagiarized work for any assignment will automatically receive a grade of F for the whole course.** Plagiarism is defined as the act of misrepresenting work done by others as one’s own. It constitutes a serious violation of AUP rules, and may result in more serious disciplinary action.

Other
