
FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN POLITICS in Fall 2018 (PO1011FB11)

Course Code	PO1011FB11	Professor(s)	Peter Hägel
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L17
Class Schedule	MR: 10:35-11:55 in G-L21	Office Hours	Mon 15h30-16h30, Wed 9h00-10h00
Credits	4	Email	phaegel@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	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 political 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, 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

The basic structures and processes in modern politics.

The most important concepts, theories and methods in political science.

To develop analytical arguments about continuity and change in modern politics.

To engage constructively in discussions about politics by substantiating normative viewpoints with empirical evidence and analytical rigor.

General Education

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the “Mapping the World” (GE1010) requirement and, as such, has the following learning objectives:

- understand the basics of political theory and social scientific enquiry
- learn the specificity of politics
- approach globalization from a political perspective

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

1. Politics and Political Science

10 September: Introduction, FB survey + practical matters

13 September:

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

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

16 September: Last day to DROP/ADD courses online

17 September:

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

20 September:

Weber, Max 1968 [1922]: *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 212-223, 226-231, 241-245.

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).

24 September:

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

27 September:

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

Hobbes, Thomas 1651, *Leviathan* (excerpts)

1 October:

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

4 October:

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

4. The Nation

8 October:

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).

11 October:

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.

5. Democracy and Dictatorship

15 October:

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

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

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

18 October:

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

22 October:

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.

25 October: no class, make-up class on 7 November

29 October:

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

1 November: fall break, no classes

7. Political Agency and Collective Action

5 November:

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.

7 November: make-up class, room and time TBD

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.

8 November:

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.

9 November: Last day to withdraw from a course or to choose CR/NC grading option

8. Political Culture

12 November:

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.

15 November:

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

19 November:

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.

10. Politics and Markets

22 November:

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').

26 November:

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

29 November:

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

11. The Media and the Public Sphere of Politics

3 December:

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

6 December:

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

10 December:

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

Final research project presentation on 20 December 2018, 8h30-11h00

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

- 2 critical reviews. Students will write a paper (strictly limited to 5 pages) reviewing the required readings of a set of classes. This paper 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. (20% each)
- 2 'quizzes' (unannounced) in class on the assigned readings of the session. (10% each)
- Class participation. (20%)
- Research project linking politics and mathematics, presentation on 20 December 2018, 8h30-11h00. (20%)

Students are expected to have prepared the assigned readings prior to the class session – the quizzes will be based on the assigned reading for the particular session. If you miss a written exercise without valid justification prior to the absence, 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.

An excellent class-participation grade will depend on consistent attendance, regular 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.

Guidelines for written work:

- 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.
- 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
