

POLI 1001-02  
Fundamental Issues of Politics  
Fall 2018  
W 3:30-6:30pm  
229 Tureaud

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 (Take-Home)  | 10pts (Sept. 12)                    |
| Midterm             | 20pts (Oct. 10)                     |
| Test II             | 10pts (Oct. 31)                     |
| Taking Sides Paper  | 20pts (Nov. 14)                     |
| Final               | <u>30pts</u> (Nov. 28; 3:30-5:30pm) |
|                     | 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. 22     | <u>Course Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is Politics? Varied Perspectives</li><li>• Same key concepts:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Power-Authority</li><li>Nation- State</li><li>Freedom-Equality</li></ul></li><li>• The Challenge of Political Science:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Breakdown of Discipline</li><li>Integration and Fragmentation (Garand)</li></ul></li><li>• The Curse of Politics</li><li>• The Enduring Relevance of Politics</li></ul> | Parsons, Chap. 1 & 4 |
| Aug. 29     | <u>The Emergence of Political Consciousness: Political Theory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought Leaders vs. Public Intellectuals</li><li>• The Ancients: Aristotle vs. Plato</li><li>• The Moderns: Hobbes vs. Locke</li><li>• Other key theorists</li></ul>   | Parsons, Chap. 2     |
| Sept. 12    | <u>Test 1 (Take-Home Due)</u>  |                      |
| Sept. 05-12 | <u>The Key Ideologies: Then vs. Now</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservatism</li><li>• Liberalism</li><li>• Socialism/Marxism</li><li>• Anarchism</li><li>• Feminism</li><li>• Third World-ism</li></ul>   | Parsons, Chap. 3 & 5 |
| Sept. 19    | <u>American Government: Is the “City on the Hill” fading?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Roots: The Natives, The Settlers, The Slaves &amp; All</li><li>• The Traits: The Presidential System<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State vs. Federal Jurisdiction</li><li>Other Aspects of the System (Students’ in-put)</li></ul></li><li>• The Novelty: Rise of Donald Trump<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How did he come to power and what does this mean?</li></ul></li></ul>     |                      |
| Sept. 26    | <u>Political Socialism &amp; Participation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Good Citizen Idea</li><li>• Political Parties and Interest Groups</li><li>• Election and Protests</li></ul> <p>Also: Review session/discuss “Taking Sides” paper topics</p>   | Parsons, Chap. 5 & 6 |

|                 |  |                              |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Oct. 10         | <u>Midterm Exam</u> (in class): Short essay, definitions, multiple choice  |                              |
| Oct. 17-24      | <u>Comparative Politics: The Variety across Countries</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Thematic vs. Case Study Approaches</li> <li>• Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems</li> <li>• The Western World: France &amp; Britain</li> <li>• The Marxist/Post Marxist: China &amp; Russia</li> <li>• The Third World Types: Mexico &amp; India</li> <li>• Military/Religious Types: Thailand/Nigeria &amp; Iran/Saudi Arabia</li> </ul>   | Parsons, Chap. 5, 7, 8, & 11 |
| Oct. 31-Nov. 07 | <u>International Relations: How the World Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories-Actors-Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change and Continuity</li> <li>The Enduring Nation State</li> <li>Realism and Idealism</li> <li>Conflict and Cooperation</li> <li>World Government vs. Global Governance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | Parsons, Chap. 12 &13        |
| Nov. 07         | <u>Test II</u> (Due/ multiple choice)  |                              |
| Nov. 14         | <u>Political Economy: Governments as Salesmen</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestically: The Tax Debate</li> <li>• Internationally: The Trade Debate</li> <li>• Dwindling Interdependence? Brexit and Trump</li> </ul><br><u>Public Administration: The Bureaucracy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Service: Efficiency vs. Corruption</li> <li>• The Deep State Idea</li> </ul><br><u>Taking Sides Paper Due</u> (3 pages)<br><br><u>Conclusion: In 'Praise' of Politics</u> | Parsons, Chap. 9 & 10        |
| Nov. 28         | <u>Final Exam</u> (in class; 3:30-5:30pm)  |                              |