

POLI 1001 sec. 2  
Fundamental Issues in Politics  
Fall 2018  
W 3:30-6:20pm  
116 Stubbs Hall

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall  
Email: [hmakeba@lsu.edu](mailto:hmakeba@lsu.edu)  
Phone: 225-578-2143

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00  
MWF 11:30-12:30  
MW 2:00-3:00

OBJECTIVE: This course is 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 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 required textbook:

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

You should also keep up 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 of ongoing events
- Apply material learned in class to papers, exams, and other assignments

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Class participation	10 pts
Test I	10 pts (Jan. 31)
Midterm	20 pts (Mar. 07)
Test II	10 pts (TBD)
"Taking Sides" paper	20 pts (Apr. 18)
Final	<u>30 pts</u> (May 02; 3:30-5:30)
	100 pts

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 and Lecture Topics

Jan. 10	<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
Jan. 17-24	<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
Jan. 31	<u>Test I (Due)</u>	
Jan. 31	<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
Feb. 07-21	<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>	
Feb. 28	<u>Political Socialization &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

Mar. 07	<u>Midterm Exam</u> (in class): Short essay, definitions, multiple choice	
Mar. 14-21	<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
Apr. 04-11	<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
TBD	<u>Test II</u> (multiple choice/take home)	
Apr. 18	<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> <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>	Parsons, Chap. 9 & 10
Apr. 18	<u>Taking Sides Paper Due</u> (3 pages)	
Apr. 25	<u>Conclusion: In 'Praise' of Politics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Taking Sides paper (5 min. each)</li> <li>• Review session</li> </ul>	
May 02	<u>Final Exam</u> (in class; 3:30-5:30pm)	