

# Fundamental Issues of Politics Political Science 1001 (Section 2) Spring 2020

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Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00 a.m., 11:30-12:30 p.m. / MW 2:00-3:00 p.m.

209 Stubbs Hall

## Course Description

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?

## LSU Integrative Learning Core

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of *Social/Behavioral Sciences* and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of *Inquiry and Analysis*.

## Required Reading Materials

The textbook for the course is listed below. You should also keep up with current political news stories, as published in the *New York Times*, and its opinion page.

*Political Science Today*, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wendy N. Whitman Cobb, Sage: ISBN: 9781544336442.

## Student Responsibility

Attend all class sessions

Participate in class discussions

Be knowledgeable of ongoing/current events

Apply material learned in class to papers, exams, and other assignments

## Student Evaluations and Policies

### Grading

The final grade for this course will be determined by a student's performance in the following areas:

Class participation	10pts
Test I (Take-Home)	10pts (Feb. 05)
Midterm	20pts (Mar. 04)
Test II	10pts (Apr. 01)
"Taking Sides" Paper	20pts (Apr. 22)
Final	30pts (Apr. 29, 3:30-5:30pm)
<b>Total = 100%</b>	

Letter grades are assigned as follows based on a student's final numerical average:

95-100 = **A+**

94.9-90 = **A**

89.9-87 = **A-**

86.9-85 = **B+**

84.9-80 = **B**

79.9-77 = **B-**

76.9-75 = **C+**

74.9-70 = **C**

69.9-67 = **C-**

66.9-65 = **D+**

64.9-60 = **D**

59.9-57 = **D-**

<57 = **F**

## **Course Schedule & Lecture Topics**

### **January 15**

#### **Introduction/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 1, 2**

- What is Politics? Varied Perspectives
- Key Concepts:
  - Power-authority
  - Nation-State
  - Freedom-Equality
- The Challenge of Political Science:
  - Breakdown of Discipline
  - Integration and Fragmentation
- The Curse of Politics
- The Enduring Relevance of Politics

### **January 22-29**

#### **The Emergence of Political Consciousness: Political Theory/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 3**

- Thought Leaders vs Public Intellectuals
- The Ancients: Aristotle vs Plato
- The Moderns: Hobbs vs Locke
- Other key theorists

### **February 5**

#### **Test I (Take-Home Due)**

### **February 5**

#### **The Key Ideologies: Then vs Now/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 3, 4**

- Conservatism
- Liberalism
- Socialism/Marxism
- Anarchism
- Feminism
- Third World-ism

### **February 12**

#### **American Government: Is the “City on the Hill” fading?**

- The Roots: The Natives, The Settlers, The Slaves & All
- The Traits: The Presidential System
  - State vs Federal Jurisdiction
  - Other Aspects of the System (students’ in-put)
- The Novelty: Rise of Donald Trump
  - How did he come to power, and what does this mean?

### **February 19**

#### **Political Socialization & Participation/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 5, 6, 7**

- The Good Citizen Idea
- Political Parties & Interests Groups
- Election & Protests
- Also: Review session/discuss “Taking Sides” paper topics

## **March 4**

### **Midterm Exam**

## **March 18-April 1**

### **Comparative Politics: The Variety Across Countries/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 8**

- The Thematic vs Case Study Approaches
- Presidential vs Parliamentary Systems
- The Western World
- The Marxist/Post-Marxist: China & Russia
- The Third World Types: Mexico & India
- Military/Religious Types: Thailand/Nigeria and Iran/Saudi Arabia

## **April 1**

### **Test II**

## **April 8**

### **International Relations: How the World Works/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 9**

- Theories-Actors-Processes
  - Change & Continuity
  - The Enduring Nation State
  - Realism & Idealism
  - Conflict & Cooperation
  - World Government vs Global Governance

## **April 15**

### **Political Economy: Governments as Salesmen/Whitman Cobb, Chap. 10, 11**

- Domestically: The Tax Debate
- Internationally: The Trade Debate
- Dwindling Interdependence? Brexit and Trump

### **Public Administration: The Bureaucracy**

- Civil Service: Efficiency vs Corruption
- The Deep State Idea

## **April 22**

### **Papers Due/Presentations**

### **Conclusion: In "Praise" of Politics**

## **April 29**

### **Final Exam (In class 3:30-5:30pm)**