Political Science 1001.01  
Fundamental Issues of Politics  
Louisiana State University  
Spring 2013

Course Description:

Behind the game of politics – campaigns and elections, pundits and commentators, policy analysts and advocates, behind even those who fight and die – lie certain fundamental issues that persist from generation to generation and that give political life its energy and form. In this course, we will begin to explore several such issues: the question of justice at war, the question of the role of government in relation to the economy, the question of constitutional design, and the question of the cultural foundations of political freedom.

We will read several books in this course, most of them written relatively recently, but we will also sample several great works of political philosophy. Lectures, quizzes, and tests will be designed around the reading assignments, which are given in the syllabus class by class. To succeed in the course, you should come to class having read the assignment for that day – a daily quiz will give you an incentive to keep up – and having thought about its significance for our study. [In the Honors version of this course, POLI 1002, students will write a paper in addition to the exams and will hold several extra classes.]

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Office Hours:  
M, 1:30-3:00,  
W, F, 9:00-10:00, and by appointment [call 578-2142]  
Stubbs 240

Class Time, and Location:  
MWF 10:30 – 11:20 am  
Dodson 100

General Education Credit:

General education credit for the social sciences will be earned by students in this course, since our study aims at a number of the goals of the general education program at LSU. According to the LSU catalogue, “General education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather, they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. Their primary aim is to educate rather than train, and to instill a desire for life-long learning.” In the social sciences, the learning outcome sought is “an
understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.” From our initial study of just war theory, through our consideration of economic policy, constitutional design, and civic culture, we keep an eye on the global dimension of the political issues we consider. While our focus for much of the course is the American regime, we look as well at other cultures—for example, Greek antiquity and Renaissance England—and at forms of thought that do not take for granted the value of democracy or freedom.

**Course Materials:**

The following books are required, and are available in the bookstore. Please obtain these specific editions so that we can all work from the same translations and/or page numbers. The books are listed in the order in which we will study them. Additional articles will be available through the Moodle website, either in pdf or as an internet link; some materials are hyperlinked in the online version of the syllabus.


NOTE: You will need TWO Scantron cards for the daily quizzes, beginning on Wednesday, January 16. Additional Scantrons will be needed for the exams.

**Grading:**

- Daily quizzes: 25%
- In-class test (Fri, Mar 1): 20%
- In-class test (Fri, Apr 12): 20%
- Final Exam (Sat, May 11, 10:00 am – noon): 35%

**Grading scale:**

- 90%-100% = A
- 80%-89.9% = B
- 70%-79.9% = C
- 60%-69.9% = D
- <60% = F
SYLLABUS:

Mon, Jan 14: Introduction

I. War and Peace

Wed, Jan 16:  
- Washington’s Farewell Address (1796)  
- Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points” (8 January 1918)  
- Ronald Reagan’s 1982 Speech to the British Parliament

Fri, Jan 18: Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars, chapter 1

[Martin Luther King Day Break]

Wed, Jan 23: Walzer, chapters 2, 3  
Fri, Jan 25: Walzer, chapter 4  
Mon, Jan 28: Walzer, chapters 5, 6  
Wed, Jan 31: Walzer, chapters 8, 9  
Fri, Feb 1: Walzer, chapters 12, 16

II. Wealth and Poverty

Mon, Feb 4: John Dewey, Liberalism and Social Action, chapter 1  
Wed, Feb 6: Dewey, chapter 2  
Fri, Feb 8: Dewey, chapter 3

[Mardi Gras Break]

Fri, Feb 15: F.A. Hayek, The Road to Serfdom, Introduction, chapters 1-2  
Mon, Feb 18: Hayek, chapters 3-5  
Wed, Feb 20: Hayek, chapters 6-8  
Fri, Feb 22: Hayek, chapters 9, 14

Mon, Feb 25:  
- FDR, “Commonwealth Club Address” (1932)  
- FDR, “State of the Union Address” (1944) (“Second Bill of Rights”)  
- Reagan, “First Inaugural Address” (1981)  
- Reagan, State of the Union Address” (1984)

Wed., Feb 27:  
Harold James, The Creation and Destruction of Value: The Globalization Cycle, chapters 1, 4

Fri, Mar 1: Test
III. First Principles

Wed, Mar 6: Aristotle, Book 3
Fri, Mar 8: Aristotle, Book 7

Mon, Mar 11: *Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan* (1651), chapters 13-14, 17-18


Fri, Mar 15: *The Declaration of Independence*

IV. Forming and Re-Forming Government

Mon, Mar 18: Constitution of the United States;

Wed, Mar 20: *The Federalist* #1, 10, 14-15, 39 in Wootton, pp. 140-143, 167-174, 179-190, 225-231

Fri, Mar 22: *The Federalist* ##47-52 in Wootton, pp. 231-254


Wed, Mar 27:
Keith E. Whittington, “How to Read the Constitution” (2006)
William Brennan, “Constitutional Interpretation” (1985)

Spring Break

Mon, Apr 8:
Henry Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction,” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2001)

Wed, Apr 10:
Fri, Apr 12:  Test

V. Character and Culture

Wed, Apr 17: Bloom, pp. 62-138
Fri, Apr 19: Bloom, pp. 336-382

Mon, Apr 22: Martha Nussbaum, *Not for Profit*, chapters 1-3
Wed, Apr 24: Nussbaum, chapters 4-5
Fri, Apr 26: Nussbaum, chapters 6-7

Mon, Apr 29:

Wed, May 1:

Fri, May 3:

Sat, May 11 (10:00 am - noon): FINAL EXAMINATION