

Political Science 1001.01
Fundamental Issues of Politics
Louisiana State University
Spring 2009

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. Some of the texts might seem difficult at first, but keep reading and you will come to see their value.

Instructors:

James R. Stoner, Jr.
poston@lsu.edu
578-2538

Luigi Bradizza
lbradizza@lsu.edu
578-2141

Office Hours:

M, W: 2:00-3:30
and by appointment
[call 8-2142]

M: 11:30-12:30
F: 9:30-10:30
and by appointment

Class Time, and Location:

MWF 10:40 – 11:30 am
Dodson 100

General Education Credit:

General education credit for the social sciences is earned by students in this course, since our study aims at a number of the goals of the general education program at LSU. While mastering factual knowledge concerning the issues of our course, you will

encounter different levels and kinds of association, from states in the international system facing issues of war and peace, to the federal government's settling national policy about the economy, to the design of the very institutions of that government, to the study of institutions of culture from schools to churches, sometimes locally based and sometimes with worldwide reach. Politics at every level involves the relations human beings have with one another and with the world around them; thought about politics rests on an understanding of the human person, that is, of human nature, and it requires understanding human failings as well as human aspirations, actions taken out of political necessity as well as those guided by an idea of moral good. We focus in this course on the American regime and to some extent on its background and history, but 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.

- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 4th ed. (New York: Basic Books, 2006) [ISBN: 978-0465037070]
- F.A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* Bruce Caldwell, ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007 [1944]) [ISBN: 978-0226320557]
- John Dewey, *The Public and Its Problems* (1927; reprint, Athens, Ohio: Swallow Press, 1954) [ISBN: 978-0804002547]
- Aristotle, *The Politics*, Carnes Lord, trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985) [ISBN: 978-0226026695]
- David Wootton, ed., *Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* (Hackett, 2003) [ISBN: 978-0-87220-655-7]
- Richard Rorty, *Achieving Our Country* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999) [ISBN: 978-0674003125]
- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1987) [ISBN: 978-0-671-65715-4]

NOTE: You will need TWO Scantron cards for the daily quizzes, beginning on Wednesday, January 14. Additional Scantrons will be needed for the exams.

Grading:

Daily quizzes	25%
Two in-class tests [Fri, Feb 20 and Wed, Apr 1]	20% each
Final Exam [Wed, May 6, 12:30-2:30 pm]	<u>35%</u>
	100%

SYLLABUS:

Mon, Jan 12: Introduction

I. War and Peace

Wed, Jan 14:

Washington's Farewell Address (1796)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp

Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points" (8 January 1918)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp

Ronald Reagan's 1982 Speech to the British Parliament

<http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/reagan-parliament.htm>

Fri, Jan 16: Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, chapter 1

[Mon, Jan 19: MLK holiday; no class]

Wed, Jan 21: Walzer, chapters 2, 3

Fri, Jan 23: Walzer, chapter 4

Mon, Jan 26: Walzer, chapters 5, 6

Wed, Jan 28: Walzer, chapters 8, 12

Fri, Jan 30: Walzer, chapters 14, 16

II. Wealth and Poverty

Mon, Feb 2: F.A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, Introduction, chapters 1-2

Wed, Feb 4: Hayek, chapters 3-5

Fri, Feb 6: Hayek, chapters 6-8

Mon, Feb 9: John Dewey, *The Public and Its Problems*, chapter 1

Wed, Feb 11: Dewey, chapter 4

Fri, Feb 13: Dewey, chapter 5

Mon, Feb 16:

FDR, "Commonwealth Club Address" (1932)

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrcommonwealth.htm>

FDR, "State of the Union Address" (1944) ("Second Bill of Rights")

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=463>

Reagan, "First Inaugural Address" (1981)

<http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres61.html>

Reagan, "State of the Union Address" (1984)

http://reagan2020.us/speeches/state_of_the_union_1984.asp

Wed, Feb 18:

Tom Friedman Interview, "Why the World is Flat" (2005)

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/13.05/friedman.html>

Robyn Meredith and Suzanne Hoppough, "Why Globalization is Good"
Forbes (2007) http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2007/0416/064_print.html
 Steven Weber et al., "How Globalization Went Bad," *Foreign Policy* (Jan/Feb
 2007)
http://www.wright.edu/~tdung/How_globalization_went_bad_FT.pdf

Fri, Feb 20: Test #1

[Monday, Feb 23 – Wed, Feb 25: Mardi Gras Holiday; no classes.]

III. First Principles

Fri, Feb 27:

The Declaration of Independence

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declare.asp

James R. Stoner, Jr., "Is There a Political Philosophy in the Declaration of
 Independence?," *Intercollegiate Review* 40, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2005)

http://www.mmisi.org/ir/40_02/stoner.pdf

Mon, Mar 2: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 1

Wed, Mar 4: Aristotle, Book 3

Fri, Mar 6: Aristotle, Book 7

Mon, Mar 9: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651), chapters 13-15

<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/h/hobbes/thomas/h681/>

Wed, Mar 11: Hobbes, chapters 17, 18, 21

<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/h/hobbes/thomas/h681/>

Fri, Mar 13: John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690), chs. 5, 19

<http://www.constitution.org/jl/2ndtr05.htm> and

<http://www.constitution.org/jl/2ndtr19.htm>

IV. Forming and Re-Forming Government

Mon, Mar 18: *The Federalist* ##1, 10, 39; "Address of the Minority of the Penn.
 Convention," in Wootton, ed., *Essential Federalist and Anti-
 Federalist Papers*, pp. 140-143, 167-174, 225-231, 3-24

Wed, Mar 18: *The Federalist* ##47-52 in Wootton, pp. 231-254

Fri, Mar 20: Brutus #15, *The Federalist* ##55, 57, 62, 70, 78 in Wootton, pp. 92-
 96, 254-268, 275-289

Mon, Mar 23: Electoral College Debate (2008): David Broder, et al.

[http://www.archives.gov/nae/news/featured-programs/electoral-
 college/080521ElectoralCollegePanel.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/nae/news/featured-programs/electoral-college/080521ElectoralCollegePanel.pdf)

Wed, Mar 25: Keith E. Whittington, "How to Read the Constitution" (2006)

http://www.heritage.org/Research/PoliticalPhilosophy/upload/96515_1.pdf

William Brennan, "Constitutional Interpretation" (1985)

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?documentprint=2342>

Fri, Mar 27:

George Will, "Can We Make Iraq Democratic?" (2004) http://www.city-journal.org/html/14_1_can_we_make_iraq.html

Patrick Basham, et al., "Rebuilding Iraq: "Prospects for Democracy," *Cato Policy Report* (Sept/Oct 2003)

http://www.cato.org/pubs/policy_report/v25n5/iraq.pdf

Debate: Robert Cooper & Robert Kagan, "Is Democracy Winning?," *Prospect* 146 (May 2008) <http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/pdfarticle.php?id=10165>

Mon, Mar 30:

Henry Kissinger, "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2001)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/intljustice/general/2001/07kiss.htm>

Kenneth Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction," *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct 2001)

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20010901faresponse5577/kenneth-roth/the-case-for-universal-jurisdiction.html?mode=print>

Wed, Apr 1: Test #2

V. Character and Culture

Fri, Apr 3: Robert P. George, "Public Morality, Public Reason," *First Things* (November 2006) http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id_article=5344

[Mon, Apr 6 – Fri Apr 10: Spring Break; no classes]

Mon, Apr 13: Richard Rorty, *Achieving Our Country*, chapter 1, pp. 1-38

Wed, Apr 15: Rorty, chapter 2, pp. 41-71

Fri, Apr 17: Rorty, chapter 3, pp. 75-107

Mon, Apr 20: Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, pp. 25-61

Wed, Apr 22: Bloom, pp. 62- 91

Fri, Apr 24: Bloom, pp. 336-347, 356-382

Mon, Apr 27:

Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, "Our American Babylon," *First Things* (December 2005) http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id_article=268

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (2006) (excerpt)

https://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm?book_number=1918

Wed, Apr 29:

Benedict XVI, "Meeting with the Representatives of Science: Lecture of the Holy Father ["Regensburg Address"]" (2006)

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2006/september/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20060912_university-regensburg_en.html

H.E. Allamah, et al., "Open Letter to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI,"
Islamica (2006)

<http://www.islamicamagazine.com/media/pdf/open/b/openletter-8238DA.pdf>

Fri, May 1: Roger Scruton, "Culture Matters," (2004)

<http://www.isi.org/lectures/text/pdf/scruton10-15-04.pdf>

Wed, May 6, 12:30-2:30: FINAL EXAMINATION