PRECEPTORIAL 51:  
PS 100 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Course Aims

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a broad array of issues and concepts that are central to the study of political science. During the course of the semester we will examine the nature of political authority, the philosophical foundations of different types of political systems, and the various responsibilities and obligations that constitute democratic citizenship. While we will explore each of these issues in different historical contexts, we will also consider how they inform our understanding of contemporary political issues, such as voting, civil disobedience, and the war on terrorism. The reading, writing, and classroom assignments are designed to bring together the theory of politics with the actual practice of it in ways that I hope will be both interesting and fun. In addition to providing students with the basic tools to analyze politics, this course will also enable students an opportunity to establish their own opinions, or challenge existing opinions, on the ultimate aims of politics.

Course Requirements

Participation and Attendance

Your daily participation is one of the most important features of this course. Each of us will bring different ideas to class discussions and the course is designed for us to share our different opinions in an intense, yet polite, manner. I do not claim to dispense Truth with respect to political science, and it is my hope that we will learn from each other over the course of the semester. Thus, there will be very few traditional lectures given. Instead, each class I will choose - at random - two to three students to lead class discussion for that day. I will ask questions concerning the assigned readings and students will be expected to have read the material closely enough to respond in a thoughtful manner. Because you never know when your number may turn up, it is best to be prepared each class for your turn in the “hot seat.” Your class participation grade will depend on how prepared you are when you are one of the leaders of class discussion. You are allowed to pass on your role as class leader one time without any penalty. If you pass more than once, your class participation grade will be lowered. If you are absent when called on, it will be counted as a pass. Regular attendance is required for this course and more than one absence will lower your class participation grade.

While this process may seem intimidating at first, it will become more familiar to you over the course of the semester and will help you learn how to construct, and deconstruct, arguments. One of the major reasons the class is designed in this manner is because the ability to make reasoned arguments and engage one another in serious conversation is one of the hallmarks of effective citizenship. In addition, practicing these skills on a daily basis will prove to be helpful for the midterms, the short paper, and the final exam.

Examinations

There will be one midterm examination on October 17. This exam will cover all the material assigned up to that date unless specified differently by the instructor. The final will be cumulative and will be on December 16 (11:00 am - 1:00 pm). Both the midterm and final will be closed book exams.
**Journals**

You will be required to read a newspaper on a daily basis and look for one article a week that relates to something we have discussed in class or that was covered in the readings. You must find your article from one of the following papers: The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), The Los Angeles Times ([www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)), or The Wall Street Journal ([www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)). You will write a one-page critical analysis of the newspaper article (double-spaced, 12 point font, one-inch margins). You will complete four journal entries for the semester.

**Report on Civicness at USD**

In this report, you will examine one student organization at USD and you will assess how this organization promotes civicness at USD. Your analysis will be five-pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font, one-inch margins) and will be due on **December 5**. Each member of the class must research a different USD organization. On **October 3**, you will give me a list of ten organizations in ranked order and I will assign you an organization based on this list. On **October 21**, you must provide me with a one-page fact sheet about this organization.

You can find a list of student organizations at: [http://www.sandiego.edu/associatedstudents/studentorgs/](http://www.sandiego.edu/associatedstudents/studentorgs/)

For this assignment, you must conduct research on this organization that, at a minimum, must include the following:

- The history of the organization
- The number of members
- The organization’s mission and objective
- Any recent events that the organization has sponsored to promote civicness
- Two interviews with members of the organization – one of which must be with someone in a leadership position

**Final Grades and Other Matters**

Your final grade will be based on the midterm, the journal entries, the report on civicness, the final exam and class participation.

Under no circumstances - except serious illness or serious family emergency - will you be allowed to take the midterm or final at an earlier or later date. You may not email assignments unless I have given you prior permission. Missed exams or late papers will not be accepted unless students notify me before the absence or late paper and have a written verifiable medical excuse. If you do not provide such notification, all late papers or missed exams will receive a zero. Those who present me with a verifiable medical excuse will be allowed to take a makeup exam that will be scheduled for the last day of the semester. Other late assignments be graded down one full grade per day and the assignment will not be accepted after three days.

**Academic Integrity**

I expect you to comply fully with the standards of academic integrity set forth by the University of San Diego. Any incident of academic dishonesty (as defined in the Undergraduate Bulletin) will be punished to the full extent allowed by the University.
Grading

Midterm: 20%
Participation: 20%
Journals: 10%
Report: 10%
Final: 40%

Books and Other Materials

All of these books should be available in the bookstore. The other materials for the course are on E-Reserve and traditional reserve with Copley Library. These materials are designated with an “ER” in the syllabus. The class password to access the E-Reserve readings is: ps100. Please notify me as soon as possible if any of these materials are not available.

- Jean Anouilh, Antigone (1996)
- Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale (1985)
- Readings on E-Reserve [ER]

Course Outline and Assigned Readings

Sept. 2 Introduction to class
Section I: Political Power and the Study of Politics
Sept. 5 No Class
Sept. 7 Various Articles on the War on Terrorism [ER]
Sept. 9 Anouilh, Antigone (entire)
Section II: Definitions of Citizenship and Notions of Justice
Sept. 12 Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857); Minor v. Happersett (1875); U.S. Constitution, 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments [ER]
Sept. 14 Plato, Crito [ER]
Sept. 16 Tocqueville, “Of the Use Which the Americans Make of Public Associations in Civil Life; Putnam, “Bowling Alone” [ER]
Sept. 19 Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia [ER]
Sept. 21 Rawls, “The Right and the Good Contrasted” [ER]
Sept. 23 Sandel, “Justice and the Good” [ER]
Sept. 26 Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge” [ER]
Section III: Philosophical Justification for Authoritarian and Oligarchy Regimes
Sept. 28 Hobbes, The Leviathan [ER]
Journal #1 Due
Sept. 30  Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*; Letters between Adams and Jefferson [ER]

*List of Student Organizations Due*

Oct. 5  Machiavelli, *The Prince* [ER]

Oct. 7  Bellow, “In Praise of Nepotism” [ER]

Oct. 10  Mirskii, “Did Totalitarianism Disappear Together with the Twentieth Century” [ER]

Oct. 12  Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale* [entire]
*Journal #2 Due*

Oct. 14  Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale* [entire]

Oct. 17  MIDTERM

**Section IV:** Philosophical Justification for Democratic Regimes

Oct. 19  Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* [ER]

Oct. 21  Mill, *On Liberty* [ER]
*Fact Sheet on USD Organization Due*


Oct. 26  Glendon, “The Illusion of Absoluteness” [ER]


**Section V:** Political Participation I: Persuading Government

Nov. 2  Keyssar, “Breaking Barriers” [ER]
*Journal #3 Due*

Nov. 4  Raskin, “Legal Aliens, Local Citizens” [ER]

Nov. 7  Kestnbaum, “Citizenship and Compulsory Military Service” [ER]

Nov. 9  Madison and Hamilton, “Federalist #10” and “Federalist #51” [ER]


Nov. 14  Phillips, *Wealth and Democracy* [ER]

Nov. 16  Various articles on youth participation [ER]

Nov. 18  NO CLASS
### Section VI: Political Participation II: Resisting Political Authority

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov. 21</th>
<th>Thoreau, <em>Civil Disobedience</em>; King, “Letter from the Birmingham Jail” [ER]</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Journal #4 Due</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Morris, “A Retrospective on the Civil Rights Movement” [ER]</td>
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<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Miller and Schae, “Democracy and the Black Riots” [ER]</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Zunes, “The Role of Non-Violent Action in the Downfall of Apartheid” [ER]</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>MOVIE</td>
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### Section VII: Liberty and Security in Times of Insecurity

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<tr>
<th>Dec. 5</th>
<th>Scheck v. U.S (1919); Dennis v. U.S. (1951) [ER]</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Report on Civiness Due</td>
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<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>Kenton, Brandt, and Baker, “American Freedom and 9/11: How the War on Terrorism Threatens Free Speech on Campus” [ER]</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>Cole, “Enemy Aliens” [ER]</td>
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<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; IPJ 222)</td>
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