

Citizens, Politics and Decisions

BCPOL/PO1603

Michaelmas Term 2017-18

Lecturer: Dr Jacqueline Hayden

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Office Hours: TBA

Lectures: Tuesdays 15:00-16:00 J M Synge Theatre (room 2039, Arts Block), Thursdays
15:00-16:00 Edmund Burke Theatre (room 1008, Arts Block)

Seminars: Wednesday biweekly, 18:00, Room 3070, Arts Block.

Course Information

Overview

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to the worlds of politics and political science. The lecture series will introduce students to the key concepts and theories used by political scientists to make sense of the political world. These concepts include power, the state, ideology and the role and nature of political institutions, as well as competing normative and empirical conceptualisations of what constitutes a 'democratic' political system.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will become familiar with the concepts and theories outlined above, allowing them a more refined understanding of the complexities of politics.
- Students from all disciplines will become more informed and articulate citizens, capable of informed participation in the political process at large.
- Students will be taught how to develop their ability to communicate effectively complicated and often controversial ideas.
- Students will be equipped with skills to allow them to analyse, engage and evaluate political systems.
- Students will be able to hone their critical writing skills and communicate concepts effectively.
- Students will have developed presentational skills and be able to participate in informed discussion.

Number of lecture/tutorial hours per week

This course lasts for one semester only (Michaelmas Term). Students must attend two lectures a week which are given as part of the PO1603 course. In addition, students are required to attend a fortnightly seminar, at which core concepts in the course will be discussed. Students are required to make one presentation during the seminar series dealing with substantive concepts.

Credit value of the course

5 ECTS

Maximum capacity of the course

In order to make for effective discussion seminars, the overall capacity of the course should not exceed 30 students.

Method of assessment

This seminar series will implement a programme of web-based learning which will facilitate interaction both between staff and students and among students themselves outside of the course contact hours.

Student assessment for this course is continuous and involves writing three short blogs, each on a political issue of their choice. They must submit and achieve a pass grade (40%) on three blog entries in order to pass the course. Each blog will be a maximum of 1,000 words in length (minimum 750 words) and students should write these as if they were writing a serious "think" piece or feature article for a quality newspaper or magazine. A good article will involve critical analysis (i.e., a clearly stated, focused and well developed argument) and not simply be a summary of lecture notes, seminar discussions or course readings. Each blog entry will be worth 30% of the overall grade for the course. These blog pieces must be posted in the discussion board on Blackboard. Once there, students should take time to read their colleagues' arguments and post replies. These can turn into some very interesting discussions and debates.

In addition, students are required to give one group presentation based on weekly readings. The group presentation will be worth 10% of the course grade.

Date of submission of assignments

Students are encouraged to post their blog entries on Blackboard throughout the term. ***The first blog post must be submitted by the end of Teaching Week 5 of Term 1 (Friday, 27th of October at 6pm).*** All assignments must be submitted by the end of Teaching Week 11 of Term 1 (Friday, 8th of December at 6pm). When submitting a blog piece, students are also required to email their blog entries to the seminar director (duggana2@tcd.ie).

Academic Honesty

While you are expected to draw on existing theoretical and empirical research this material should be appropriately cited. You may use any citation style you wish, but be consistent in your work. The most commonly used styles in political science are **Chicago** (footnote) <http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/chicago%20style%20guide.pdf> or **Harvard** AGPS (intext) <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/referencing/harvard-agps-referencing-guide>.

Attendance

Attendance is **compulsory** at all seminars and it is required that you attend at least 4 of the 6 seminar to pass the course. All requests for an excused absence must be made by your school tutor. ***Each missed seminar will result in a 2% deduction from your final grade.***

Readings

Students who take this course should first and foremost read newspapers and watch and listen to news media. While there are a number of texts recommended for the course, lectures will not follow the pattern of the texts and students should regard them as a jumping off point rather than a course 'bible'.

The following text books are recommended for the lectures and seminars and are available in the library and in Hodges Figgis on Dawson Street:

- 'Politics' 4th Edition, Andrew Heywood, Palgrave.
- 'Global Politics' 1st Edition, Andrew Heywood, Palgrave.
- 'Why Politics Matters' Gerry Stoker, (2006) Palgrave.
- 'Modern Politics and Government' 7th Edition, (2005) Bull & Peters Palgrave.

Required seminar specific reading is listed below under each seminar topic. All students should read and be familiar with these articles prior to each seminar in order to facilitate lively discussion.

SEMINAR SERIES OUTLINE

Students will be divided into five groups, with each group being required to lead one seminar. This entails each group providing a 15 minute presentation on the seminar topic, and furnishing the class with a series of questions and issues to drive the subsequent discussion. Each seminar has a theme and several suggested topics: however, students should feel free to go beyond these topics once they are: 1) political in nature, 2) of contemporary significance and 3) appropriate to the seminar theme.

Seminar 1: Introduction (DATE 4th October 2017)

- Discuss course outline and requirements
- Assign groups to seminars
- What is the study of politics?
- Politics as a Science?

(1) 'Politics' 4th Edition, Andrew Heywood, Palgrave. Chapter 1.

Seminar 2: Power and the State (DATE 18TH October 2017)

- State authority and legitimacy
- Power and the state
- Hobbes vs. Locke and the state of nature

(1) <http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/alevelphilosophy/data/AS/WhyShouldIBeGoverned/Authorityandlegitimacy.pdf>

(2) <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4226393>

(3) Shapiro, Ian. 2006. On the Second Edition of Lukes' Third Face. *Political Studies Review*, 4: 146-155.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/4780718_On_the_Second_Edition_of_Lukes'_Third_Face

(4) <http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/alevelphilosophy/data/AS/WhyShouldIBeGoverned/Stateofnature.pdf>

Seminar 3: Collective action problem & public goods provision (DATE 1ST November 2017)

- Collective action problem
- Free rider problem
- Economic inequality and political power

(1) Lanes, Charles. 2013. Common interest rarely wins the day. *Washington Post*. January 28, 2013. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-lane-common-interest-rarely-wins-the-day/2013/01/28/c746bb40-6985-11e2-af53-7b2b2a7510a8_story.html?utm_term=.31b36c6965b2

(2) Robert J. Shiller. 2012. Reviving Real Estate Requires Collective. *New York Times*, June 23, 2012. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/24/business/economy/real-estates-collective-action-problem.html>

(3) <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/free-rider/>

(4) Michael Mandelbaum, *The Case for Goliath: How America Acts as the World's Government in the Twentieth Century* (Public Affairs, 2005), pp. 6-11

(5) Gilens, Martin. 2012. Economic Inequality and Political Power. *The Monkey Cage*, August 13, 2012. <http://themonkeycage.org/2012/08/economic-inequality-and-political-power-part-1/>

Seminar 4: Democracy, Development & Political Institutions (DATE 15TH November 2017)

- Does economic development lead to more democracy or vice versa?
 - Presidential vs. parliamentary systems and their consequences
 - Do institutions matter?
 - Role and function of political parties
- (1) Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2009. How Development leads to Democracy. What we know about Modernization. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2009.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2009-03-01/how-development-leads-democracy>
 - (2) Pereira, Carlos and Vladimir Teles. 2011. Political Institutions, Economic Growth, and Democracy: The Substitute Effect. January 9, 2011.
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2011/01/19-political-institutions-pereira>
 - (3) Stepan, Alfred and Cindy Skach. 1993. Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarianism vs. Presidentialism. World Politics, 46(1): 1-22.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2950664>
 - (4) Alexander, Gerard. 2011. Institutions, path dependence and democratic consolidation. Journal of Theoretical Politics, 13(3): 249-70.
<http://people.virginia.edu/~ga8h/JTP.pdf>
 - (5) Schulze, Elizabeth. 2017. Baffled by the electoral college? Germany's system might be more confusing. CNBC, 15 September 2017.
<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/15/german-elections-explained-chancellor-bundestag-voting-parties-and-merkel.html>
 - (6) Katz, Richard S., and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." Party Politics 1(1): 5–28.

Additional readings/books of interest

- (7) Doorenspleet, Renske and Huib Pellikaan. Which type of democracy performs best? Acta Politica, 48: 237-267.
- (8) Lijphart, Arend. 2002. Parliamentary Versus Presidential Government. Oxford: OUP.

Seminar 5: Democracy, Democratic Peace Theory & Authoritarian Resilience (DATE 29th November 2017)

- Democratic Peace theory
 - Clash of Civilizations
 - Authoritarian resilience & damage to democratic legitimacy
- (1) Bruce Russett, C. Layne, D. E. Spiro and M. W. Doyle. 1995. The Democratic Peace. *International Security*, 19(4): 164-184. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2539124>
 - (2) Huntington, Samuel P. Clash of Civilizations? *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3): 22-49. http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/pnorris/ Acrobat/Huntington_Clash.pdf
 - (3) Brooks, David. 2011. Huntington's Clash Revisited. *New York Times*. March 3, 2011. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/04/opinion/04brooks.html>
 - (4) <http://www.economist.com/news/essays/21596796-democracy-was-most-successful-political-idea-20th-century-why-has-it-run-trouble-and-what-can-be-do>
 - (5) Kornai, James. Hungary's U-Turn: Retreating from Democracy, *Journal of Democracy*, 26(3), pp. 34-48.
 - (6) <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/04/america-tyranny-donald-trump.html>
 - (7) O'Toole, Emer. 2016. Trump and the rise of fascism: it's not just the economy, stupid. *The Irish Times*, 14 November 2016. <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/trump-and-the-rise-of-fascism-it-s-not-just-the-economy-stupid-1.2864215>

Additional resources (a short video relating to Democratic Peace Theory)

- (8) <http://www.fallen.io/ww2>

Seminar 6: Separation of powers and the role of the judiciary (DATE 13th December 2017)

- Who guards the guardians?
- Accountability vs. independence

- 1) <http://www.supremecourt.ie/supremecourt/sclibrary3.nsf/pagecurrent/D5F78352A387D74480257315005A419E?opendocument&l=en>
- (2) <http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/the-judiciary-the-government-and-theconstitution/jud-acc-ind/>
- (3) Hillard, Mark. Ireland scores well on perceptions of judicial independence - EU survey. The Irish Times, 14 April, 2014. <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/ireland-scoreswell-on-perceptions-of-judicial-independence-eu-survey-1.1757381>
- (4) Cahillane, Laura. 2014. Judicial Independence and the Current Controversy. <http://constitutionproject.ie/?p=217>
- (5) O'Halloran, Marie. 2014. Patronage key to judicial appointments, claims Shane Ross. The Irish Times, 6 June 2014. <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/patronage-key-to-judicial-appointmentsclaims-shane-ross-1.1823773>
- (6) Keena, Colm. 2015. Peter Kelly a surprise appointment as High Court president. The Irish Times, 19 December 2015. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/peter-kelly-a-surprise-appointment-as-high-court-president-1.2471802>
- (7) Phelan, Shane. 2016. Ross in U-turn as Cabinet set to appoint new judges. The IRISH Independent, 30 November 2016. <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/ross-in-uturn-as-cabinet-set-to-appoint-new-judges-35256075.html>
- (8) O'Halloran, Marie & Bardon, Sarah. 2017. Judicial appointments Bill hits Oireachtas roadblock. The Irish Times, 28 June 2017. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/judicial-appointments-bill-hits-oireachtas-roadblock-1.3136499>