

**Department of Political Science
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2424 Maile Way, Saunders 640
Honolulu, HI 96822**

SPRING 2016

Course Syllabus

POL 110: Introduction to Political Science

Instructor: Ponipate Rokolekutu

Office: Saunders Halls, Office #: 626

Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4pm.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the study of political science. It is designed to nurture and develop students' understanding of the nature of politics, and introduces students to different political philosophies, systems, and ideologies. The course examines, and discusses the definitions, dimensions and dynamics of politics. Secondly, the course traces the relationships between politics and power, and explores the discourse on power. Thirdly and more importantly, the course examines how politics is reflected in the different institutions of society, such as the family, church, schools etc. The course, however, will focus largely on the politics of the state, and how state politics shapes relationships between communities, political parties, different political inclinations, institutions and sovereign states. The course allows students to explore the different political philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, Karl Marx, and others; as well as political ideologies - which includes, but is not limited to, liberals, conservatives and moderates- and how they are reflected in different political systems. Students will also study basic political concepts such as imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, post-colonialism, capitalism and democracy. Finally, the course introduces students to the region of Oceania as a site, or space of colonization. Students will examine the multi-facets of colonization, with reference to Hawaii, New Caledonia and West Papua, as well as, the colonial projects of militarization in the Marshall Islands and Guam.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students can:

1. Define politics and articulate its complexities
2. Discuss how politics shapes multiple levels of relationships in society
3. Analyze and articulate political philosophies, ideologies and fundamental concepts in political science
4. Reflect on Oceania as a site of colonial exploitation, annihilation and militarization
5. Articulate the consequences of colonialism in Oceania and elsewhere.

Assessment

Attendance 10%: You are expected to attend every class and to participate and engage actively in class discussion. You are also expected to take notes and learn from your colleagues in class. You need to engage seriously with the readings in order to participate constructively in class.

Presentations:

1. **Individual 10%.** Students will be required to make a presentation every week based on the readings and class discussion. Individual presentation will be held on every Thursday class.
2. **Group 10%:** You will be assigned to a group that will make presentation and lead the discussion during the class. Presentations should include little on summary and more on your reflections and views on issues highlighted in the readings. Presentations can be in the form of formal presentation, debate, power point, role play, video, skit etc.

Weekly Journals 40%: Bi-weekly journals should be 2-3 pages long and must include a brief summary of the weekly readings as well as thoughtful and critical reflections on the issues raised in the readings. Journals must be typed, double spaced and turned in (in the form of hard copy) during the last class of every other week. You must submit 8 journals out of the sixteen weeks of the semester.

Essay 30%: Research Project. The research paper should reflect students' knowledge of issues presented in the course and one's ability to critically and analytically present his/her views coherently on a given political issue or event. Essay must be typed, double and between 8-15 pages long. You must choose a topic of interest to you. But it must be based on the readings, discussions and issues raised in the weekly journal. You are to discuss your topic with me first before you proceed with your research.

Ground Rules

1. **We will discuss important, interesting, difficult and sensitive topics. Respectful disagreement and debate are welcome. Personal attacks, however, will not be tolerated.**
2. **Be on time. Our class time is limited. If you are late on the first five minutes then do not come at all, because you will be missing 20% of the things you need to know in the class.**
3. **Late journals will NOT be accepted**
4. **Three unexcused absence will mean a failed grade**
5. **Please see me if you have a problem or issues that you feel will affect your final grade in this course.**
6. **Cell phones MUST be turned off during every class**

PLAGIARISM

The following is from <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

What is Plagiarism?

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. Source:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>

Note: Students who are caught plagiarizing will get a failed grade.

PART 1: CONCEPTS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES

Week 1. Introduction

Questions:

What is Politics? What is the origin of the word politics? What is the role of politics in society? Are people inherently political? What makes an act political? Readings:

- Asmonti L. "What Do We Mean by Polis?", *Athenian Democracy: A Sourcebook* (pp13-28). Bloomsbury Publishing, London, December 18th, 2014.
- Tansey, S. D. "Introduction", *Politics: The Basics* (pp1-17). (2nd edition), Routledge, London 2000.

Week 2. Politics and Power

Questions:

What is power? Is there any concurrence amongst social scientists on the definition of power? How did Foucault articulate power? What is Laswell and Kaplan notion of power? What does Dahl mean by "exercising power" and "having power"? What is the relationship between politics and power? How does politics shapes power relations in society? What is "power over somebody" as oppose to "power to do something"? What is the relationship between power and politics?

Readings:

- Foucault: *Power is everywhere* <http://www.powercube.net/other-forms-of-power/foucault-power-is-everywhere/>
- LedyaeV, V.G. *Power: A Conceptual Analysis*. Nova Science Publishers, NY, 1997. (Introduction and Chapter 1)
- Media Resources. *The Gun Fight: The Power and Politics of the NRA* / ABC News Productions.

Journal 1 Due

Week 3. The State and Society

Questions: What are the characteristics of human nature? How does human nature reflect society, according to Soltau? What necessitate the establishment of the state? What is the state? What are the characteristics of the State? What is the nation? How does power feature in the role of the state? What and who authorize the state to regulate society? What is the basis of the State's authority to monopolize the legitimate use of force? Is the state indispensable, or can society be organized and regulated outside of the state?

Readings:

- Soltau, R, H. "State and Society". *Introduction to Politics*. Longmans, Green and Co. New York, 1951.
- Fadakinte, M.M. "The State: A Conceptual Jungle?" *Journal of Alternative Perspective in the Social Sciences*. (pp551-580). Vol. 5 No 3 2013.

Week 4. Political Philosophy

Questions:

What is Political Philosophy? What are the major assumptions that underscore the political philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, The Stoics, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Karl Marx? How do these assumptions or ideas shape or are reflected in major political systems such as democracy, autocracy and fascism? Which political philosophy or philosophies interest you the most, and why?

Readings:

- Strauss, L. and Cropsey, J. "Introduction". *History of Political Philosophy* (pp1-6). Rand McNally & Co. Chicago, 1963.
- Nettleship, R. L. "The Main Elements of Society and of Human Nature Indicated". *Lectures on the Republic of Plato* (pp 67-76). Macmillan, London, 1929.
- Slann, M. "Government, State, and Political Philosophy", *Introduction to Politics: Governments and Nations in the Post- Cold War Era*, MacGraw Hill, 1998.

Journal 2 Due

Week 5. Political Ideologies

Questions:

What is political ideology? What is the distinction between political philosophy and political ideology? What are the major ideologies according to Tansey? What are the major principles of these ideologies? How do these ideologies reflect the political thinking and leaning of political regimes and parties?

Readings:

- Tansey, S. D. "Ideologies". *Politics: The Basics* (pp70-104). (2nd edition), Routledge, London 2000.
- Class Debate

Week 6. Democracy- Definition, Principles and Dimension

Questions:

What is the origin of democracy? What are the three dimensions of Democracy according to Bernard Crick? How did Crick articulate the two faces of Democracy? What are the three most important things that Crick discusses in his book? What are the principles of democracy?

- Crick, B. *Democracy: A Short Introduction*. (Introduction, Chapter 1, 2, 3 & 6) Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Henry Blair. *We the People: The Fundamental Principles of American Democracy*. 2011. <http://thepeoplesconvention.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Fundamental-Principles-of-the-American-Democracy1-30May11.pdf>
- Democracy for All. <http://lawanddemocracy.org/pdffiles/amazing.prin.pdf>

Journal 3 Due

Week 7. Democracy or Dollarocracy?

Questions:

What is “the money power”? What is dollarocracy? What aspects of democracy is contradictory according to McChesney? To what extent does the power of money compromise the principle of political participation in U.S. democracy? What is the role of the media, according to Chesney, in democracy?

Readings:

- McChesney, N. “This is not what democracy looks like?” *Dollarocracy*. Nation Books, New York, 2013.
- Media Resource: *Money talk: influence of money in American politics* / Public Affairs Television (Firm) New York, N.Y. Films Media Group, [2007]

Questions:

Week 8. Imperialism, Colonialism; Neo Colonialism, Post-Colonialism and Capitalism

Questions:

What is/are the difference(s) between colonialism and imperialism? What are the different categories of colonies, according to Robert Young? What is neo-colonialism? What are the characteristics of capitalism?

Readings:

- Young R. “Colonialism” *Post Colonialism: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publisher, 2001.
- Bottomore, T. “Capitalism”, *A Dictionary of Marxist Thought*, (Second Edition), pp.71-75, Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1991.

Journal 4 Due

Week 9. Colonialism: Discourse

Questions:

What are the driving forces behind colonialism? What is the civilizing mission for colonialism; and how legitimate is this rationale in the justification of colonization? What did Kant, Smith and Diderot mean by “the barbarity of colonialism”? What are the arguments against the project of colonialism?

Readings:

- “Colonialism”. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (First published Tue May 9, 2006; substantive revision Tue Apr 10, 2012)
(<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/colonialism/>)
- Young R. “Colonialism” in *Post Colonialism: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publisher, 2001.

Part 2: COLONIALISM, MILITARIZATION and DECOLONIZATION in OCEANIA

Week 10. Oceania Cartography and Orientation

Locating the Pacific Islands on a blank map.

Questions:

What are the ethnic categories of Pacific Islanders? Choose three Pacific Island Countries, one from each ethnic categories and identify the following:

When was it colonized? Who was its colonial power? When was it decolonized? Choose a Pacific Island Country and identify a major political event. Discuss the causes of such event its effects on the Island country of your choice.

Readings:

- Readings: Crocombe, R. "Chronology", *The South Pacific: An Introduction*, University of the
- Campbell, I.C. "The People of Oceania", in *Worlds Apart, A history of the Pacific Islands*. (pp. 15 - 33), Canterbury University Press, 1989.

Journal 5 Due

Week 11. Colonialism and Land Dispossession in Hawaii and New Caledonia

Questions:

What were the colonial agenda in the colonization of Hawaii and New Caledonia? Which category would New Caledonia and Hawaii belong to in terms of Robert Young's classification of colonies? What was the nature of land ownership, or the traditional system of land tenure in Hawaii and New Caledonia? What is the significance of land in indigenous epistemologies? Why is land important in the colonial context? What were the means of land seizure in the case of Hawaii and New Caledonia? What are the results of land alienation in these colonial spaces?

Readings:

- Saussol A. *New Caledonia Colonization and Reaction*. Edited by Ron Crocombe, Oxford University Press, London, 1987.
- Kame'eleihiwa, L.A. "Aftermath of the Mahele". *Native Land and Foreign Desires, Pehea La E Pono Ai?*. Bishop Museum, 1992.

Journal 6 Due

Week 12. The Colonization of West Papua: Historical Background

Questions:

Which colonial power colonized West Papua and Indonesia? When did the Dutch relinquished control of Indonesia; and why? What was the status of West Papua after the decolonization of Indonesia? When did Indonesia make claim of West Papua? What is The Hague Agreement? What was The Hague Agreement's ruling on the relationship between Indonesia and West Papua? When, and why, did the Indonesian government revoke The Hague Agreement? What was the role of the United Nations in the colonization of West Papua? How did the West Papuans respond to the Indonesian occupation?

Readings:

- Jason, B. "The Plight of West Papua? *Fiji Islands Business* (p21). March 2013.
- Michelle, C. "Fight for Wet Papua Freedom Lives On" *Spasifik*. Spring (pp24-27). Spring 2014.
- Callick, R. "Breakthrough Imminent in Indonesia"? *Fiji Island Business* (p28). September 2013.
- Saltford, J. "Background, 1949-1962". *The United Nations and the Indonesian Takeover of West Papua, 1962-1969: The Anatomy of Betrayal*. RoutledgeCurzon, New York, 2003.

Week 13. Economic Exploitation, Resistance and Mass Killings

Questions:

What international mining companies are engaged in the exploitation of gold and copper in West Papua? How does the Indonesian government benefit from such exploitation? How did the West Papuans organize resistance against the Indonesian Occupation? What are results of colonial resistance? What are the reactions of Australia and the U.S in Indonesian colonization of West Papua? What is the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)? What is the position of the MSG in Indonesian occupation and mass killings in West Papua?

Readings:

- Saltford, J. "The Act of Free Choice and its Aftermath". *The United Nations and the Indonesian Takeover of West Papua, 1962-1969: The Anatomy of Betrayal*. RoutledgeCurzon, New York, 2003.
- Tapol. *West Papua: The Obliteration of a People*. 1984. (Chapters 3 and 5)
- Media Resource: *Land of the Morning Star: The turbulent history of West Papua*

Journal 7 Due

Week 14. Militarization in the Marshall Islands and Guam

Questions:

What is militarization? What are the characteristics of militarization? What is the strategic nature of Micronesia to the U.S.? What is Davis' notion of "Seeing like an Empire"? How does the "imperial way of seeing", on the part of U.S. military legitimizes military engagements in places such as Bikini atoll in the Marshall Islands, and Guam? How are colonized spaces like Micronesia and others are represented by the U.S. Military? What are the impacts of militarization on the Marshallese and Chamorro?

Readings:

- Teaiwa. T.K. *Bikinis and Other S/pacific N/oceans*. Edited by Sestu Shigematsu and Keith L. Camacho. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 2010.
- Davis, S. "Seeing Like an Empire". *The Empires' Edge*. University of Georgia Press, 2015.
- Media Resource: To be determined!

Week 15: Course Revision and Project Presentations begins

This week will provide an opportunity to review the entire course and close with some concluding remarks. Presentation of research project will begin on Thursday.

Week 16: Project Presentation Continues and Course Evaluation
Journal 8 Due