

BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
PO 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FALL 2004  
PROFESSOR DAVID SCOTT PALMER  
LECTURES: TR 9:30-10:50  
ROOM: SCI 107  
TEACHING FELLOWS: SARA FULMER, MEGAN MENARD,  
AMANDA VELOZA, JOSHUA YESNOWITZ  
SECTIONS: F 9, 10, 11, 12, AND 1  
**AUGUST 10, 2004 EDITION**

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### **The Scope of the Course**

PO 101, Introduction to Political Science, is open to anyone with a general interest in politics and concerns about political matters. The course intends to give you a sense of the scope of the field, major issues and controversies, and basic information about politics in its various forms. Our expectation is that you will learn about politics (to be able to answer the What? question) and will develop a capacity to analyze political concerns (to be able to answer the Why? question). PO 101 is required for students concentrating in Political Science at Boston University, but also satisfies a

social science divisional requirement for those of you who are majoring or who plan to major in a department within the Humanities or Sciences Divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Political Science is typically divided into several sub-fields; here at Boston University these are Political Theory (the study of the classical writers on politics over the centuries), American Politics (the various elements of the political system of the United States), Public Policy (the study of what governments do to respond to the needs and demands of their citizens), Comparative Politics (the political systems of countries other than the United States), and International Relations (interactions among governments and supra-national organizations and management of those interactions). While we will be addressing specific concerns and issues in each of these sub-fields, we also focus on larger and broader questions of political science more generally. (For examples of such questions, see the Class Schedule listings for sections on Fridays.)

In an increasingly complex and uncertain world, and with the added incentive of U.S. national elections coming up this semester on Tuesday, November 2, it behooves all of us to become as well informed as possible on the theory and practice of politics at home and abroad. Introduction to Political Science is designed to help you begin to achieve this objective by giving you a solid base upon which you can build a body of knowledge towards becoming an informed and involved citizen in your own country and in the larger world.

### **Required Readings**

1. Thomas M. Magstadt, *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions, and Issues* (Belmont CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2003) **Sixth Edition**.

This text is available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Boston University. It includes website addresses in each chapter as well as your individual access code (if you purchase a new rather than a used copy) to permit you to explore course themes more widely through the Thomson/Wadsworth online library, Infotrac.

2. In addition, you are asked to take out a weekday (M-F) student subscription to *The New York Times* (offered at a special reduced price) to be able to follow both international and domestic developments related to the themes of the course. We will be discussing relevant events in class and

sections on a regular basis (and there will be a short quiz on the week's developments each Friday in sections), so it is important for you to be current on what is happening around you. Forms will be available for you to fill out and submit at the first class meeting so that you can begin to receive your *Times* subscription right away. Your paid subscription will also give you access to the full daily edition of the *Times* on line, at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

3. There will also be material posted from time to time on the PO 101 website (accessible at [courseinfo.bu.edu](http://courseinfo.bu.edu)) related to course concerns and topics that you will be expected to read. These will be announced in class.

## Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the following five elements:

1. In-Class Examinations: 15% each

**T Sep 28** (Key terms, utopias, constitutional democracies, authoritarian and totalitarian states)

**T Oct 19** (Parliamentary democracy, states in transition, development and its challenges)

2. In-Section Examination: 10%

**F Nov 12** (Political socialization, participation, leadership, and elections)

3. Final Examination: 25%

**R Dec 16, 12:30-2:30** (One essay question on topics covered Nov 16-Dec 9, and one essay question on a topic drawn from the rest of the course)

4. Lecture Attendance: 10%

5. Discussion Section Components:

a. Attendance: 5%

b. New York Times Short Quizzes: 10%

c. Participation: 10%

The College of Arts and Science (CAS) Deans' Office has requested that you be informed of the following:

1. The last day you may drop the course without a W grade is F Oct 8.
2. The last day you may drop the course with a W grade is F Oct 29.
3. You are responsible for knowing the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code. Copies are available in CAS 105.
4. Suspected academic misconduct is referred to the Deans' Office.

## **Class Schedule and Assigned Readings**

Readings, which are not onerous, are to be completed before the class for which they are assigned. If you follow this practice consistently, you will be able to understand the lectures more fully and will be more likely to perform well on examinations. For days when no reading is assigned, you should go over the previous reading again before that class.

- T Sep 7      Introduction: What Politics is All About  
Magstadt Chapter 1, 1-26
- R Sep 9      Politics as an Ideal and as Reality: Utopias and Dystopias  
Magstadt Chapter 2, 27-47 and Chapter 12, 356-377  
Guest Lecture: Professor James Schmidt
- F Sep 10     Sections Question: The challenge of ideals and realities – What kind of political system would we like to have and how hard is it to achieve?
- T Sep 14     Politics as Constitutional Democracies  
Magstadt Chapter 3, 48-71
- R Sep 16     Politics as the U.S. Model: Exceptional or Generalizable?  
Guest Lecture: Professor Michael Ebeid
- F Sep 17     Sections Questions: How unique is the U.S. political experience? Can it be applied elsewhere?
- T Sep 21     Politics as Authoritarian States  
Magstadt Chapter 4, 72-91
- R Sep 23     Politics as Totalitarian States  
Magstadt Chapter 5, 92-128
- F Sep 24     Sections Questions: Why does authoritarianism persist? Is democracy the wave of the future?
- T Sep 28     **IN-CLASS EXAMINATION #1** (Key terms, utopias, constitutional democracies, authoritarian and totalitarian states)

- R Sep 30     Politics as Parliamentary Democracies  
                   Magstadt Chapter 6, 129-178  
                   Guest Lecture
- F Oct 1        Sections Questions: What are the key characteristics of  
                   parliamentary democracies. How are they different from the  
                   U.S. political system?
- T Oct 5        Politics as Parliamentary Democracies
- R Oct 7        Politics as Transitions from Communism: Russia, Eastern  
                   Europe, and China  
                   Magstadt Chapter 7, 179-209  
                   Guest Lecture
- F Oct 8        Sections Questions: Can transitions from Communism succeed?  
                   Can these political traditions become more like those of  
                   Western Europe or the United States, or will they take on quite  
                   different forms?
- T Oct 12      Politics as Transitions from Colonialism: Asia and Latin  
                   America  
                   Magstadt Chapter 7, 209-217
- R Oct 14      Politics as Development: Key Elements, Challenges, Puzzles,  
                   Theories  
                   Magstadt Chapter 8, 218-256
- F Oct 15      Sections Questions: What are the major challenges to the  
                   emergence of stable democracy in the “Third World?” Can  
                   these be overcome? How?
- T Oct 19      **IN-CLASS EXAMINATION #2** (Parliamentary democracy,  
                   states in transition, development and its challenges)
- R Oct 21      Becoming Political: Socialization to Politics  
                   Magstadt Chapter 9, 257-278

- F Oct 22     Sections Question: What are your views on political issues and how did you get them?
- T Oct 26     Getting Involved: Participation in Politics  
                   Magstadt Chapter 10, 279-327  
                   Guest Lecture: U.S. Representative Michael Capuano of the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Massachusetts
- R Oct 28     Getting Involved: Polling and What it Tells Us about the 2004 Elections  
                   Guest Lecture: Lake Associates Pollster Henry Crawford, Washington, D.C.
- F Oct 29     Sections Questions: Who participates? Why or why not? How do we explain U.S. public views just before elections?
- T Nov 2      Politics as Voting: Election Day Issues and Projections
- R Nov 4      The U.S. Elections: Results and Analysis  
                   Panel Discussion of Faculty and Teaching Fellows
- F Nov 5      Sections Questions: Who won? Why did they win? What does their victory mean for the United States and the world?
- T Nov 9      Politics as Leadership  
                   Magstadt Chapter 11, 328-355
- F Nov 12     **IN-SECTION EXAMINATION** (Political socialization, political participation, leadership, and the U.S. elections)
- T Nov 16     Politics as Public Policy  
                   Magstadt Chapter 13, 378-414
- R Nov 18     Politics as Public Policy  
                   Guest Lecture
- F Nov 19     Sections Questions: How effective is government in what it does? What are the major challenges? How can these be overcome?

- T Nov 23 Politics as Revolution and Terrorism  
Magstadt Chapters 14 and 15, 415-469
- T Nov 30 Politics as War  
Magstadt Chapter 16, 470-504
- R Dec 2 Politics as International Relations  
Magstadt Chapter 17, 505-544  
Guest Lecture: Professor Walter Clemens.
- F Dec 3 Sections Questions: Why do we have wars? Can national or international actors and institutions avoid them? How and under what circumstances can this be done?
- T Dec 7 Politics as International Organizations  
Magstadt Chapter 18, 545-581
- R Dec 9 Conclusion: What Have We Learned?
- F Dec 10 Sections: Review of key themes of the course.
- R Dec 16 **FINAL EXAMINATION 12:30-2:30** (One essay question on public policy and/or international relations – covered Nov 16-Dec 7, and one essay question on a topic drawn from the rest of the course)