

08-18 Surat #1 Lecture: Political Science Fundamentals, Authority, and Film Analysis

Date & Time: 2025-08-18 09:22:12

Location: [Insert Location]

[Insert Title]

Political Science

Authority and Legitimacy

Film Analysis

Theme

This lecture introduces students to the fundamentals of political science, covering key concepts such as authority, legitimacy, and the scope of politics. It outlines course policies, grading systems, and term paper requirements, emphasizing critical analysis of films through political theory. The session also discusses international partnerships, comparative politics, and the importance of theory, empirical methods, and imagination in political science.

Takeaways

1. Class starts at 9:15, not 9:00; after 9:15, students cannot sign the attendance sheet.
2. Attendance and participation together account for 30% of the final grade.
3. Attendance is objective, based on signature; participation is subjective, based on contribution.
4. Individual term paper is required; topic involves analyzing a film through political theory.
5. Final exam accounts for 40% of the final grade and only covers material taught in class.
6. Grading is strict; 79 means 79, no grade inflation.
7. A senior student will help grade papers and exams to ensure fairness.
8. Use of endnotes and footnotes is required for papers.
9. Partner universities (Essex, Leeds, Queensland, Korea University) require multiple papers: Essex assigns 11, Queensland assigns 14.
10. Main textbook published in 2012, supplemented by additional readings.

Highlights

- "Life is quite a challenge, just embark upon it with love, you can't avoid it."
- "Political science is everything in life because it's your definition of political science that is flawed right now."
- "You can go against me. You can have ideas against me. I like it very much. As long as your ideas or your opinions are backed up with evidence and reasons."
- "Politics exists wherever decisions are made that affect a group of people."
- "Politics is not only about elections. Politics is not only about campaigns or corruption."
- "Being a political scientist means you're not afraid of anything. You will do the work."
- "Authority is when power is seen as legitimate and rightful."
- "Without legitimacy, government must rely on force which is costly and unstable."
- "The respect is earned, not forced."
- "You become election expert rather than you are democrat by heart."

Chapters & Topics

Attendance and Participation Policy

Class begins at 9:15. After 9:15, students cannot sign the attendance sheet and are marked absent. Attendance is objective, based on signature; participation is subjective, based on contribution to class discussion.

- **Keypoints**
 - Class starts at 9:15 due to traffic concerns.
 - Attendance sheet is collected after 9:15.
 - Attendance is worth 15 points if all classes are attended.
 - Participation is worth up to 15 points, based on quality of contribution.
 - Latecomers can attend but cannot sign the sheet.
- **Explanation**

The instructor emphasizes discipline and punctuality. Attendance is tracked scientifically via signatures, while participation is evaluated subjectively by the instructor based on intellectual engagement and contribution.
- **Considerations**

- Arrive before 9:15 to ensure attendance is counted.
- Quality of participation matters, not just presence.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If a student arrives after 9:15, they may attend but will be marked absent.
- If a student contributes meaningfully, they may receive full participation points.

Grading System and Evaluation

Grading consists of attendance and participation (30%), individual term paper, and final exam (40%). Strict grading: 79 means 79, no rounding or inflation. A senior student assists in grading for fairness.

- **Keypoints**
 - Attendance and participation: 30%.
 - Final exam: 40%.
 - Individual term paper required.
 - No grade inflation; grades reflect actual performance.
 - Senior student helps grade for objectivity.
- **Explanation**

Grades are calculated strictly according to performance. Attendance and participation are combined for 30%. The final exam covers only taught material. A senior student ensures grading is unbiased.
- **Considerations**
- Follow instructions for assignments and exams.
- Grades are not negotiable after submission.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If a student submits a paper, it cannot be retracted.
- If a student feels grading is unfair, a senior student reviews for bias.

Individual Term Paper Requirements

Students must write a term paper analyzing their most admired film using a political theory framework. Use of endnotes and footnotes is required. Workshops and consultation are available.

- **Keypoints**
 - Topic: Most admired film and relevant political theory.
 - Use endnotes and footnotes for citations.
 - Consultation and workshops provided.
 - Partner universities require multiple papers (Essex: 11, Queensland: 14).

- **Explanation**

The term paper prepares students for academic writing standards at partner universities. The instructor provides guidance and expects proper citation practices.

- **Examples**

A student chooses 'Gandhi' as their admired film and applies Marxist theory to interpret its political narrative.

- Select a film: 'Gandhi'.
- Identify a political theory: Marxism.
- Analyze the film's narrative through the lens of Marxist theory.
- Use endnotes and footnotes for all references.
- Consult with instructor during workshops for feedback.

- **Considerations**

- Choose a film and theory that can be meaningfully connected.
- Follow citation guidelines strictly.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If unsure about topic selection, consult instructor during workshop.
- If citation format is unclear, ask for clarification before submission.

Partner University Preparation

Students are prepared for academic standards at partner universities (Essex, Leeds, Queensland, Korea University), which require multiple papers (Essex: 11, Queensland: 14).

- **Keypoints**

- Partner universities require extensive writing.
- Course is divided into two segments: political science fundamentals and media/film analysis.
- Preparation for future academic expectations.

- **Explanation**

The course structure is designed to equip students with foundational knowledge and writing skills needed for success at partner institutions.

- **Considerations**

- Be prepared for heavy writing requirements at partner universities.
- Understand both political science and media analysis.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If transferring to a partner university, ensure readiness for multiple paper assignments.

Textbook and Reading Materials

Main textbook published in 2012, supplemented by additional readings. Key thinkers include Max Weber, David Easton, Karl Marx.

- **Keypoints**

- Main textbook is simple and easy to understand.
- Additional readings assigned for term paper.
- Familiarize with key political science thinkers.

- **Explanation**

Students are expected to read both the main textbook and supplementary materials, focusing on influential political science thinkers.

- **Considerations**

- Spend free time reading recommended materials.
- Understand the contributions of major thinkers.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If struggling with reading material, seek help from instructor.

Exchange Student Policy and Special Considerations

Exchange students from Germany, Hong Kong, Spain, and Indonesia are present. Indonesian student sponsored by Maybank scholarship received late admission due to sponsor's delay; missed classes will not count against attendance.

- **Keypoints**

- Four exchange students: Germany, Hong Kong, Spain, Indonesia.
- Indonesian student admitted late due to sponsor's error.
- Missed classes for Indonesian student are excused.

- **Explanation**

Special consideration is given to students whose attendance is affected by circumstances beyond their control, such as scholarship delays.

- **Considerations**

- Be supportive of exchange students.
- Understand exceptions for attendance due to administrative delays.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If a student misses classes due to sponsor error, those absences are excused.

Film Analysis in Political Science

Films used in class include Gandhi (India), Cinema Paradiso (Europe), Full Metal Attacking (USA). Students are encouraged to critically analyze films using political theory.

- **Keypoints**

- Three films: Gandhi, Cinema Paradiso, Full Metal Attacking.
- Films represent different regions: India, Europe, USA.
- Critical analysis of films is part of coursework.
- **Explanation**
Film analysis helps students understand political narratives and imagination through media.
- **Considerations**
 - Engage with films critically, not just passively.
 - Connect film narratives to political theories.
- **Special Circumstances**
 - If unfamiliar with a film, watch it before analysis.

Class Contract and Rules

Once the syllabus and rules are agreed upon, they become a binding contract; neither teacher nor students can change them.

- **Keypoints**
 - Class contract is binding after agreement.
 - No changes allowed by either party.
- **Explanation**
The instructor emphasizes the importance of mutual agreement and adherence to class rules.
- **Considerations**
 - Understand and accept class rules before proceeding.
- **Special Circumstances**
 - If a rule seems unfair, discuss before agreement; changes are not possible afterward.

Definition and Scope of Political Science

Political science is broadly defined, not limited to government or elections; it can encompass various aspects of life, including technology and personal interactions.

- **Keypoints**
 - Political science is not just about government or elections.
 - Can include topics like mobile phones and personal politics.
 - Definition will be explored in class.
- **Explanation**
Students are encouraged to think broadly about political science and its relevance to everyday life.

- **Considerations**
- Be open to diverse interpretations of political science.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If unsure about scope, participate in class discussions for clarification.

Exam Preparation and Past Paper Policy

No past paper system; hints will be given before exams. Exams only cover material taught in class.

- **Keypoints**
 - No access to past exams.
 - Instructor provides hints before exams.
 - Exam content strictly matches taught material.
- **Explanation**

Students should focus on class material and use provided hints for exam preparation.
- **Considerations**
- Do not rely on past papers for exam preparation.
- Ask questions if unsure about exam topics.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If unclear about exam scope, seek clarification from instructor.

Definition and Scope of Politics

Politics is not limited to elections, campaigns, or corruption. It encompasses any situation where decisions are made that affect a group of people, regardless of whether it involves government. Politics can occur in universities, families, workplaces, and among students.

- **Keypoints**
 - Politics is broader than elections and campaigns.
 - It can exist wherever decisions affect groups.
 - Politics is about power, resources, and values.
- **Explanation**

The lecturer emphasized that politics is a broad concept, not confined to government or public elections. It can be found in everyday interactions and group dynamics, such as among students or within families. The definition includes the distribution of resources and power, as well as the allocation of values.
- **Examples**

The lecturer mentioned that politics can exist among students, for example, in group dynamics or decision-making processes.

- Politics is present when students make decisions that affect their group.
- It is not limited to formal government structures.
- **Considerations**
- Be aware that politics is present in many aspects of life, not just government.

Attendance and Signing Policy

Students must sign their own names for attendance and are prohibited from signing for friends. Violation will result in denunciation from the school, and the lecturer holds 100% authority over student behavior. Parents may be informed if students do not attend classes.

- **Keypoints**
 - Sign your own name for attendance.
 - Do not sign for friends.
 - Violation leads to denunciation from school.
 - Lecturer has full authority over student behavior.
 - Parents may be informed of absences.
- **Explanation**

The lecturer stressed the importance of personal responsibility in attendance. Signing for others is strictly forbidden and will be punished. The lecturer has complete authority to enforce these rules and may involve parents if necessary.
- **Considerations**
- Always sign your own name.
- Arrive before 9:15 for future classes.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If caught signing for a friend, you will be denounced from the school.

Restructuring of PGS Every Five Years

PGS (program or system) must be restructured every five years by law. The current restructuring will not affect existing students; changes will apply to new backup students starting in 2027.

- **Keypoints**
 - PGS restructuring is required every five years.
 - Current students continue under their registered year.
 - New structure applies to students from 2027 onward.
- **Explanation**

The lecturer explained that the restructuring is a legal requirement and involves collecting complaints, grievances, and recommendations from stakeholders. The changes will not impact current students but will start with new students in 2027.

- **Considerations**
- Understand that restructuring is a regular legal process.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If you are a current student, your studies are not affected by the restructuring.

Role of Political Scientists

Political scientists are trained to be resilient and unafraid, able to embark on important tasks and projects. Their work can involve international cooperation and complex assignments.

- **Keypoints**
 - Political scientists are resilient.
 - They are not afraid to take on challenges.
 - Their work can include international cooperation.
- **Explanation**

The lecturer shared personal experience of being assigned to strengthen cooperation between the Constitutional Court of Thailand and the Supreme Court of India, highlighting the importance of resilience and adaptability in political science.
- **Examples**

The lecturer was assigned to strengthen cooperation between the Constitutional Court of Thailand and the Supreme Court of India.

 - Political scientists may work on international projects.
 - Resilience is key to handling such assignments.
- **Considerations**
- Be prepared for diverse and challenging tasks.

Honorary Degree Event on 22nd December

On 22nd December, Chulalongkorn University will award honorary degrees to the King and Queen of Bhutan. The tradition requires recipients to come to the university to receive degrees. The lecturer is the main person assigned to ensure the task is fulfilled.

- **Keypoints**
 - Honorary degrees awarded to King and Queen of Bhutan.
 - Event date: 22nd December.
 - Recipients must come to the university.
 - Lecturer is responsible for the event.
- **Explanation**

The lecturer described the university's tradition and the responsibilities involved in

organizing the event. Volunteers may be needed to assist with the intricate details of the ceremony.

- **Examples**

On 22nd December, the King and Queen of Bhutan will receive honorary degrees at Chulalongkorn University.

- The event follows university tradition.
- Students may volunteer to help.

- **Considerations**

- Understand the importance of university traditions.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If volunteering, be prepared for detailed and important tasks.

Classic Definitions of Politics: Harold Lasswell and David Easton

Harold Lasswell defined politics as 'who gets what, when, and how,' focusing on the distribution of resources and power. David Easton defined politics as the authoritative allocation of values for a society, including both material and non-material values.

- **Keypoints**

- Lasswell: 'Who gets what, when, and how.'
- Easton: 'Authoritative allocation of values.'
- Definitions emphasize power, resources, and values.

- **Explanation**

The lecturer discussed the significance of these classic definitions and their relevance to understanding politics today. Lasswell's definition is short and powerful, while Easton's includes values beyond material resources.

- **Considerations**

- Recognize the importance of classic definitions in political science.

Distribution of Power and Resources

Politics involves the distribution of power and resources among individuals and groups. Examples include army commanders, university deans, and prime ministers.

- **Keypoints**

- Power and resources are central to politics.
- Different roles have varying degrees of power.

- **Explanation**

The lecturer provided examples of individuals with power and resources, such as the

prime minister proposing an educational policy of one million baht per student per year.

- **Examples**

Prime minister proposes giving every student one million baht per year if they study.

- Such policies demonstrate the impact of power and resource distribution.

- **Considerations**

- Understand how policies affect resource allocation.

Authority and Legitimacy

Authority is when power is seen as legitimate and rightful. Legitimacy is essential for stable governance; without it, governments must rely on force, which is costly and unstable.

- **Keypoints**

- Authority is legitimate power.
- Legitimacy stabilizes governance.
- Lack of legitimacy leads to reliance on force.

- **Explanation**

The lecturer explained the difference between power and authority, using examples such as university disciplinary actions and police authority. Legitimacy is discussed in the context of Thai politics.

- **Examples**

University can set up a committee to dismiss staff but cannot imprison them; police have the authority to do so.

- Different institutions have different types of authority.

- **Considerations**

- Recognize the importance of legitimacy in authority.

Max Weber's Three Types of Authority

Max Weber identified three types of authority: traditional (monarchies, dynasties), charismatic (rooted in personality), and legal-rational (based on rules, laws, bureaucracy). Authority evolves from traditional to charismatic to legal-rational.

- **Keypoints**

- Traditional authority: monarchies, dynasties.
- Charismatic authority: personality-based.
- Legal-rational authority: rules and laws.
- Authority evolves over time.

- **Explanation**

The lecturer described Weber's theory and provided examples of charismatic leaders, such as Joseph McCarthy, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Adolf Hitler. Charismatic authority is not a system but is rooted in personality.

- **Examples**

McCarthyism involved charismatic authority, with McCarthy claiming to have names of communists, influencing politics through personality.

- Charismatic authority can dominate politics but may lack substance.

Mandela was imprisoned for 26 years before South Africa was freed from apartheid.

- Charismatic leaders can inspire significant change.

- **Considerations**

- Understand the evolution of authority types.

Legitimacy in Government

Legitimacy is crucial for government stability. In Thailand, leaders may have power but lack legitimacy due to societal division. The ideal leader possesses both power and legitimacy.

- **Keypoints**

- Legitimacy is essential for stable governance.
- Power without legitimacy leads to instability.
- Societal division affects legitimacy.

- **Explanation**

The lecturer discussed Thai politics, noting that recent prime ministers have faced legitimacy issues. Legitimacy will dominate Thai politics for at least 20 years.

- **Considerations**

- Strive for both power and legitimacy as a leader.

Civil Disobedience and Non-Violence

Mahatma Gandhi adhered to civil disobedience and non-violence, influencing political change without holding government or army positions.

- **Keypoints**

- Civil disobedience and non-violence are powerful tactics.
- Charisma can influence political movements.

- **Explanation**

The lecturer explained Gandhi's approach and its impact on Indian politics, emphasizing the role of charisma and principles in leadership.

- **Examples**

Gandhi was elected as Indian National Congress Party leader only once or twice, yet influenced politics through civil disobedience and non-violence.

- Leadership does not require formal positions.

- **Considerations**

- Principles and charisma can drive change.

Legitimacy of Government

Legitimacy can stem from authority (legal or institutional power) or from popularity (public approval, often via landslide elections). Examples include Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had both authority and popularity, and Prayuth's 10,000 baht project, which had authority but questionable popularity.

- **Keypoints**

- Authority-based legitimacy: legal or institutional power
- Popularity-based legitimacy: public approval, often via elections
- Landslide elections as a source of legitimacy
- Leadership crisis and deficit in modern times

- **Explanation**

The lecture discusses how legitimacy is not solely derived from elections or authority. For example, Roosevelt extended his presidency beyond two terms due to national need, later resulting in a legal change. Approval ratings of leaders (Macron 17%, Scholz 14%, Putin 84%, Trump 50%) illustrate the complexity of legitimacy. Leadership crisis is noted as a modern phenomenon.

- **Examples**

Roosevelt argued that the restriction on a third term was a meeting resolution, not a law, and continued as president due to national need. Congress later made it law that presidents can only serve two consecutive terms.

- Roosevelt's presidency extended beyond the norm due to perceived necessity.
- Congress responded by formalizing term limits.

The project was intended to boost demand in a Keynesian economy, but never came into effect. Its legitimacy was questioned due to lack of popularity.

- Authority granted legitimacy, but public support was lacking.
- Sanctioning the project would undermine government purpose.

- **Considerations**

- Legitimacy is multifaceted: authority and popularity both matter.
- Election systems can affect perceived legitimacy.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If a government project lacks public support, its legitimacy may be questioned even if it has legal authority.

Election Systems and Democracy

Election systems vary by country and can influence the fairness and legitimacy of outcomes. The French system uses multiple rounds to prevent far-right extremism. The US uses an electoral college, which can result in a president who did not win the popular vote.

- **Keypoints**

- French election system: first and second rounds to eliminate extremism
- US electoral college: representative democracy, not direct democracy
- Al Gore (55 million votes) vs. George W. Bush (52 million votes) outcome

- **Explanation**

The lecture explains that election systems are designed to achieve specific outcomes, such as preventing extremism or balancing representation. The US system is based on representative democracy, not direct democracy, as reflected in the Constitution and the use of the electoral college.

- **Examples**

Al Gore received 55 million votes, George W. Bush received 52 million, but Bush became president due to the electoral college.

- Popular vote does not always determine the winner.
- Electoral college is a constitutional mechanism.

Multiple rounds are used to prevent far-right candidates like Le Pen from reaching the final round.

- Election system design can influence political outcomes.
- Majority is defined within the system, not necessarily among the entire population.

- **Considerations**

- Election system design impacts legitimacy and fairness.
- Politicians may resist changing systems that benefit them.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If an election system produces controversial outcomes, public trust in democracy may be affected.

State, Nation, and Nation-State

A state is a permanent, political, legal entity with population, territory, government, and sovereignty. A nation is a community sharing culture, history, or identity. A nation-state combines both. Hyphens in 'nation-state' indicate a new concept.

- **Keypoints**

- State: population, territory, government, sovereignty
- Nation: shared culture, history, identity
- Nation-state: combination of state and nation
- Hyphen indicates a new word/concept

- **Explanation**

The lecture clarifies the distinction between state, nation, and nation-state.

Examples include the United Kingdom (multiple nations within one state), Belgium (Flemish, Dutch, French), and Switzerland (Italian, German, Romantic speakers).

Some states contain multiple nations, and some nations lack a state (Kurds, Palestinians).

- **Examples**

Consists of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The pound coin has four emblems representing each country.

- UK is a state with multiple nations.
- Devolution policy gives authority to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

India's constitution allows 22 languages, with special status for English and Hindi. Parliament uses translator boxes for communication.

- India is a state with multiple nations and languages.
- Translation infrastructure is essential for governance.

Kurds live in Iran and Turkey but lack a nation-state. Palestinians share identity but do not have a country.

- Some nations lack a state.
- Political recognition is complex.

- **Considerations**

- Distinguish between state, nation, and nation-state.
- Hyphens indicate new concepts in terminology.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If a nation lacks a state, issues of recognition and sovereignty arise.

Sovereignty and International Recognition

Sovereignty includes both internal authority and recognition by other states.

International recognition is crucial for state legitimacy.

- **Keypoints**

- Internal sovereignty: authority within borders
- External sovereignty: recognition by other states
- United Nations membership as a form of recognition

- **Explanation**

Direk Cheyannam advocated for Thailand's membership in the United Nations to gain international recognition. Sovereignty is not just about internal control but also about being recognized by other states.

- **Examples**

Direk Cheyannam argued for UN membership to ensure Thailand's recognition by other countries.

- International recognition is essential for sovereignty.
- UN membership formalizes state legitimacy.

- **Considerations**

- Recognition by other states is vital for sovereignty.
- Membership in international organizations enhances legitimacy.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If a state is not recognized internationally, its sovereignty is compromised.

Constitutional Law and Exceptions

Constitutional law applies to all citizens, with limited exceptions. In Thailand's far south, Muslim traditions sometimes conflict with national law, but the Constitution prevails.

- **Keypoints**

- Constitutional law is supreme
- Muslim law (Sharia) traditions may conflict with national law
- Civil servants are trained to be culturally sensitive

- **Explanation**

A case in Thailand's far south involved a Muslim family's desire for quick burial according to tradition, but police required autopsy due to unnatural death. The Constitution and principle of justice took precedence.

- **Examples**

A child died in a car; family wanted quick burial per Muslim tradition, but police required autopsy. The Constitution overruled religious practice.

- Constitutional law prevails over religious customs in cases of unnatural death.
- Civil servants must balance sensitivity with legal requirements.

- **Considerations**

- Civil servants should be culturally sensitive but uphold the law.
- Constitutional justice is paramount.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If religious customs conflict with constitutional law, legal requirements must be followed.

Translation and Multilingual Governance

Multilingual countries require translation infrastructure in parliaments and government institutions to facilitate communication and governance.

- **Keypoints**

- India: 22 official languages, translator boxes in parliament
- European Parliament: translation boxes for multiple languages
- Translation costs are significant

- **Explanation**

India and the European Parliament invest heavily in translation to ensure effective communication among representatives speaking different languages. Special status is given to English and Hindi in India.

- **Examples**

Parliament uses translator boxes for representatives speaking different languages, with special status for English and Hindi.

- Translation is essential for governance in multilingual states.
- Special status languages facilitate communication.

Translation boxes are used to accommodate representatives from various countries.

- Translation infrastructure supports multinational governance.
- Significant budget is allocated for translation.

- **Considerations**

- Translation infrastructure is necessary for multilingual governance.
- Budgeting for translation is essential.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If translation is inadequate, communication and governance may break down.

UK Parliament and Historical Precedents

The UK Parliament consists of the House of Lords and House of Commons. Historical events, such as Oliver Cromwell's execution of King Charles I, have shaped parliamentary traditions.

- **Keypoints**

- House of Lords and House of Commons are key institutions
- Members of the royal family cannot cross certain lines in Parliament
- Statue of Oliver Cromwell outside Parliament
- Historical precedent: execution of King Charles I

- **Explanation**

Parliamentary tours highlight traditions, such as restrictions on royal family

members. The execution of King Charles I by Oliver Cromwell, despite warnings from Thomas Hobbes, is a significant historical event.

- **Examples**

Guided tours cost 30 pounds and provide insight into parliamentary traditions and history.

- Tours educate visitors on parliamentary procedures and history.
- Historical events are commemorated in Parliament.

Oliver Cromwell executed King Charles I after demanding he confess his sins. Thomas Hobbes warned against it, predicting anarchy.

- Historical events influence parliamentary traditions.
- Warnings from philosophers like Hobbes are noted.

- **Considerations**

- Parliamentary traditions are rooted in historical events.
- Guided tours provide educational value.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If historical precedents are ignored, institutional traditions may be undermined.

Scope and Scientific Study of Political Science

Political science is the scientific study of the state and politics, focusing on institutions, constitutions, parliaments, codes, and later shifting to political behavior, voting, protest, and opinion surveys.

- **Keypoints**

- Political science originally focused on institutions.
- Behavioral revolution shifted focus to political behavior.
- Scientific approaches include surveys and pattern studies.
- Limitations exist in fully understanding voter motivations.

- **Explanation**

The lecture discusses how political science evolved from studying formal institutions to incorporating behavioral approaches, such as voting and protest. It highlights the challenges in obtaining complete answers to questions like why voters choose certain candidates, emphasizing the need for scientific methods and intellectual guessing.

- **Examples**

Did Huitong win the election last time? He came in first, but the reason is unclear. Charisma was mentioned, but it's all guesses. You cannot ask every voter why they voted for Huitong.

- The lecturer points out the impossibility of surveying every voter.

- Intellectual guesses and opinion surveys are used to strengthen understanding.
- Some questions in life remain unanswered, requiring pattern studies.
- **Considerations**
- Be honest in designing survey questions.
- Tricky questions yield tricky answers.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If you cannot obtain direct answers from all participants, rely on intellectual guesses and pattern studies.

Political Science Departments and Compulsory Subjects

Political science is divided into four compulsory subjects: political theory and philosophy, comparative politics, international relations, and public policy and administration. Departments include government, international relations, public administration, and sociology/anthropology.

- **Keypoints**
 - Four compulsory subjects are tradition at Harvard, Chicago, Michigan.
 - Departments: government, international relations, public administration, sociology/anthropology.
 - Sociology and anthropology are sometimes separate from political science.
- **Explanation**

The lecture outlines the structure of political science education, emphasizing the four main sub-disciplines and the departmental organization. It notes the unique inclusion of sociology and anthropology in some universities.
- **Examples**

YPGS combines all four sub-disciplines in English, aiming for global engagement. PTS is the fifth department, and agreements with partner universities facilitate student exchanges.

 - YPGS is pragmatic, with immediate student flow.
 - Plans to increase partner universities in the next year.
 - Confirmed partnerships: leads, Korea East (by end of week), Essex, Queensland.
- **Considerations**
- Consult parents about study abroad due to financial considerations.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If parents do not pay for study abroad, students must stay.

Normative vs. Empirical Approaches

Normative approaches suggest what things should be like, focusing on imagination and ideals. Empirical approaches require scientific evidence and observable data.

- **Keypoints**

- Normative: power of imagination, not limited by possibility.
- Empirical: backed by evidence, scientific discussion.
- Both approaches are necessary in political science.

- **Explanation**

Normative thinking allows for debate and imagination, as seen in political philosophy. Empirical thinking demands evidence, especially in behavioral studies. The lecture stresses the importance of both for a complete understanding.

- **Examples**

Plato imagined a good society without being limited by practical possibilities.
Normative thinking does not stop imagination.

- Students are encouraged to debate normative ideas.
- Imagination is essential for progress and change.

Ajahn Siripan Noxwan provides evidence for voting behavior studies.
Disagreements are resolved by presenting data.

- Empirical approach strengthens arguments with evidence.
- Scientific discussion is based on observable behavior.

- **Considerations**

- Do not stop imagination in normative discussions.
- Require evidence in empirical debates.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If a student raises a utopian idea, allow debate without dismissing possibilities.

Comparative Politics: Case Studies

Comparative politics involves analyzing different political systems and policies, often through case studies that control for factors.

- **Keypoints**

- Comparative analysis is challenging due to variable control.
- Case studies help understand differences in systems.
- Historical and cultural factors shape policies.

- **Explanation**

The lecture uses Nepal and Bhutan as examples of comparative politics, asking why two landlocked countries with similar geographic positions have different foreign policies. Understanding requires analysis of historical and cultural influences.

- **Examples**

Nepal pursues Y policy, Bhutan pursues X policy. Both are landlocked, above is China, below is India. The question is why their foreign policies differ.

- Students are asked to analyze historical and cultural factors.
- Understanding precedes criticism.
- **Considerations**
- Understand before criticizing other systems.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If lacking data, focus on understanding facts before analysis.

International Relations: Realism and Deterrence

International relations includes theories such as realism and deterrence, emphasizing state security, retaliation, and diplomacy.

- **Keypoints**
 - Realism advocates for strong responses to attacks.
 - Diplomatic measures are exhausted before war.
 - School of deterrence supports retaliation.
- **Explanation**

Ajahn Surat explains his realist stance, advocating for retaliation if civilians are attacked. Diplomatic solutions are preferred but war is justified if necessary.
- **Examples**

Ajahn Surat is asked if Thailand should bomb Cambodia. He responds affirmatively if civilians are attacked, citing realism and deterrence.

 - Realist theory justifies retaliation.
 - Diplomacy is the last resort.
- **Considerations**
- Be honest about theoretical positions.
- Respect differing views, such as advocacy for peace.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If attacked, respond according to deterrence theory.

Role of Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology and anthropology are sometimes included in political science, though in many universities they are separate and considered foundational to social science.

- **Keypoints**
 - Sociology is often seen as the mother of social science.
 - Departmental organization varies by university.

- **Explanation**

The lecture notes the unique inclusion of sociology and anthropology in some political science departments, reflecting historical ties and disciplinary debates.

YPGS Program and International Partnerships

YPGS combines all sub-disciplines of political science in English and actively pursues international partnerships for student exchanges.

- **Keypoints**

- Agreements with leads, Korea East, Essex, Queensland.
- Pragmatic approach with immediate student flow.
- Financial considerations for study abroad.

- **Explanation**

YPGS is described as a forward-looking program, emphasizing English instruction and global engagement. Partnerships are confirmed and expanding.

- **Examples**

As of 2025-08-18, leads is done, Korea East will be done by end of week, Essex and Queensland are partners.

- Students will have opportunities for exchange.
- Financial considerations are crucial for participation.

- **Considerations**

- Consult parents regarding financial support.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If unable to afford study abroad, remain at home institution.

Behaviorism and Post-Behaviorism

Behaviorism in political science adopts psychology and statistics to emphasize observable behavior. Post-behaviorism reacts to empiricism, demanding relevance to human problems.

- **Keypoints**

- Behaviorism focuses on observable, generalizable behavior.
- Post-behaviorism emphasizes relevance to human issues.
- Complexity of human behavior challenges generalization.

- **Explanation**

The lecture discusses the evolution from behaviorism to post-behaviorism, noting the importance of both scientific observation and relevance to real-world problems.

- **Considerations**

- Balance generalization with attention to salient characteristics.

- **Special Circumstances**
- If generalization excludes important details, adjust approach.

Role of Theory in Political Science

Theory connects events, predicts behavior, and asks deeper questions about cause and effect, providing lenses for understanding the world.

- **Keypoints**
 - Theory helps connect and explain events.
 - Predicts behavior and explores cause and effect.
 - Essential for deeper understanding beyond listing facts.
- **Explanation**

The lecture emphasizes the necessity of theory in political science, enabling analysis and prediction rather than mere description.
- **Examples**

Ajahn Surat consults theory to analyze problems between Thailand and Cambodia, using theoretical lenses to connect events.

 - Theory provides frameworks for analysis.
 - Enables deeper understanding of international relations.
- **Considerations**
- Employ theoretical lenses for analysis.

Secularism and Religion in Politics

Secularism refers to the separation of church and state, but absolute secular states may not exist. Religious influence varies by country and context.

- **Keypoints**
 - Secularism is defined by lack of religious influence in law and politics.
 - Examples: France, Switzerland, UK, US, Iran.
 - Thailand is more secular than Iran but not absolutely secular.
- **Explanation**

The lecture explores the complexity of secularism, noting that even Western states have religious elements in politics. The importance lies in legal and institutional separation.
- **Examples**

Supreme Patriarch appointed by the king; religious rituals exist but legal processes are secular.

 - Secularism is measured by institutional practices.
 - Religious references are not used in legal proceedings.

- **Considerations**
- Be cautious before concluding a state's secular status.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If religious influence is present, assess its impact on law and politics.

Generalization in Political Science

Generalization is necessary for conversation and analysis but risks excluding important details. Over-generalization can lead to inaccuracies.

- **Keypoints**
 - Generalization enables discussion and analysis.
 - Over-generalization excludes salient characteristics.
 - Balance is needed between generalization and specificity.
- **Explanation**

The lecture discusses the challenges of generalizing in political science, using examples of cultural traits and the need for nuance.
- **Examples**

Professor says Thai people usually like hot food, but not everyone does. Over-generalization can be misleading.

 - Generalization helps conversation but must be used carefully.
 - Intellectuals may react negatively to over-generalization.
- **Considerations**
- Avoid excessive generalization.
- Include salient characteristics when possible.
- **Special Circumstances**
- If generalization causes offense or inaccuracy, clarify exceptions.

Democracy in India

India is a democratic country with 28 states and 8 territories. Democracy is seen as the only way to produce legitimacy and unite differences.

- **Keypoints**
 - India has 28 states plus 8 territories.
 - Founders like Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Thakur advocated democracy.
 - Democracy glues differences together and produces legitimacy.
- **Explanation**

The lecture uses India as an example of how democracy can unite a diverse country, emphasizing consensus among founders.

- **Examples**

India's founders agreed on democracy as the system to unite 28 states and 8 territories.

- Democracy is chosen for legitimacy and unity.
- Middle class can influence system fluidity.

- **Considerations**

- Consider diversity and consensus in democratic systems.

Imagination and Utopian Thinking in Theory

Imagination and utopian thinking are essential in normative theory, allowing for progress and challenging existing possibilities.

- **Keypoints**

- Normative theory encourages imagination.
- Utopian ideas form one end of the spectrum.
- Imagination enables social progress.

- **Explanation**

The lecture highlights the importance of not restricting imagination in normative theory, citing historical examples of progress through utopian thinking.

- **Examples**

At one time, imagining women studying in university was utopian. Progress occurred because imagination was not obstructed.

- Normative thinking enables social change.
- Imagination should not be limited by current possibilities.

- **Considerations**

- Encourage imagination in theoretical discussions.

- **Special Circumstances**

- If a proposal seems utopian, allow debate and exploration.

Assignments & Suggestions

- Prepare an individual term paper analyzing your most admired film using a political theory framework, with proper use of endnotes and footnotes.
- Participate actively in class discussions to earn participation points.
- Read the main textbook (published in 2012) and supplementary materials, focusing on key political science thinkers.
- Watch and critically analyze the assigned films: Gandhi, Cinema Paradiso, Full Metal Attacking.

- Consult with the instructor during workshops for guidance on the term paper.
- Term paper writing: Students expressed concern about writing term papers. The lecturer emphasized maintaining a positive attitude and offered help with the process.
- Prepare individual term paper with careful composition of each sentence to avoid criticism and ensure clarity.
- After partner university presentations, consult parents regarding financial feasibility for study abroad.