

# POL1160 Lecture 1 - January 14th

What is poly sci:

- Appeal to voters
- Instruct, clarify, elevate,
- Honor
- Never corrupt
- Never ignore scientific evidence
- Maintain the separation of executive, legislative, and judicial power
- Hold your own side to rigorous standards
- Maintain the separation of religion and state
- Insist on the same kind of separation between money and politics
- Be willing to risk losing elections for the right reasons

Politics concern the formulation and execution of decisions binding upon the population of a community of society, and the relationship between those who make such decisions and those who are affected by them.

## Therefore..

Besides investigating relationship between the state and/or government and the people, the objects of political study we will be concerned with are

- Institutions(c)
- Processes(b)
- Ideas(a)

## Scope:

- Political theory / political philosophy
  - Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx
  - Normative approach. Political science as means to achieve political relations
  - Nationalism
- International Relations
  - Focus on security policies, conflict resolutions, diplomacy, rivalry, cooperation, and warfare.
- Comparative Politics and Government

- Focus on similarities and differences among states with respect to executive, legislative and judicial bodies, constitutions, administrative organizations, foreign politics, political parties and processes.
- Public Admin
  - Focus on managing and administrating governance

Politics is about power. Power comes from the latin *potere* ( to be able). Physical and/or intellectual power. Politics is “authoritative allocation of values”  
 “Who gets what, when, and how” - Harold Laswell (1902 - 1978)

### Three Faces of Power:

1. The ability to affect decisions
2. The ability to ensure that issues are not raised
3. The ability to affect dominant ideas of society

### Power:

Influence - ability to convince

Coercion - control by force

Persuasion - active

### Power continuum

Decisions and consequences of decisions

Influence on one end and Coercion on the other

### Politics is about power:

Power is the ability to impose one's will on another. It implies a capacity for force.

Authority is the power to enforce laws to exact obedience to command to determine or to judge.

Legitimacy is the attribute of government gained through the application of power in accordance with recognized or accepted standards or principles.

### Niccolo Machiavelli

“A prince never lacks legitimate reasons to break his promise”

- Concept of having both soft and hard power
- Talks about the survival of the elites.
- Two sets of truths, what you have to know and what is the real set of truths

### Thomas Hobbes - Politics is not about power

Not believing in force is the same as not believing in gravitation.

To describe the nature of the artificial man i will consider,

- First the matter thereof and the artificer bothwhic is man

- Secondly how, and by what covenants it is made; what are the rights and just power or authority of a sovereign; and what it is that preserveth and dissolveth it.
- Thirdly, what is a Christian Commonwealth
- Lastly, what is the kingdom of darkness

#### Power:

- Hobbes - Men can be expected to construct a Social Contract that will afford them a life other than that of the state of nature
- This contract is constituted by two distinguishable contracts
- Firstly they must agree to establish society by *collectively and reciprocally renouncing the rights they had against one another in the state of nature*
- Second, they must ensure to live together under common laws with a clearly defined enforcement mechanism for the social contract and a legal & institutional framework guaranteeing the stability of these conventions.

#### Social Contracts:

- Main themes:
  - Principle of social contract To escape state of war, man accede to a social contract establishing a civil society.
  - Principle of sovereign authority to whom all individuals in that society cede their natural rights for the sake of protection
  - Any abuses of power by this authority are to be accepted as the price of peace
  - The doctrine of separation of powers is rejected
  - The sovereign must exercise control over civil military judicial and ecclesiastical powers.

#### Max Weber - Typology of legitimacy

- *The protestant Ethic and the spirit of capitalism*, 1905
- *Politics and a vocation*, 1918
- 7 Mortal sins, greed, lust, sloth, gluttony, wrath, envy, pride

#### Triad of legitimate authority

1. Legitimacy: Charismatic authority
  - a. Mussolini, Hitler, Mao
2. Legitimacy: Traditional Authority
  - a. Tribal leaders, shamans, emperors
3. Legitimacy: Legal rational authority
  - a. Modern Politicians

#### Approaches

- Political science is a branch of social sciences
- Why?
- There is no agreed "Essential scientific core" for the political science

### Units of analysis

- The traditional approach
  - Historical approach
  - Shortcomings; descriptive; biased eurocentric
- The behaviorist approach
  - Empirical theory/ individual behavior within political institutions;
  - Shortcomings; ignores values, cultural contexts
- Political economy - Marxism public choice
  - Marxism: class centered
  - Neo-marxist, approaches, gramsci - elite centered, organic individuals, public choice
  - Individual as rational actor.
- Post-modernist approaches
  - Narratives without clear reference point

### Jean-Jacques Rousseau:

- I don't need to survive if I'm in prison
- Wants freedom and decision and choices
- Free agent