

# **2. Political Values & Democracy**

**Breakout Sessions  
POLS 1101  
8:40am-9:35am Baldwin 322  
& 9:55am-10:50am Journalism 509**

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# How We Will Discuss in Class

- **1. Presentation Q&A**
  - Discussion with classmates around you; Random grouping;  
Any other ways preferred by our presenters (It's up to you!)
  - One student from each group to summarize your discussion; Voluntary sharing;  
Any other ways to ask someone for ideas / comments (also up to our presenters)
- **2. Discussion in TA-led sections**
  - **Tophat Open-ended Questions**
    - Write a short answer individually
    - TA selection + clarification, or group discussion + sharing, or TA asks someone to clarify, or voluntary sharing
  - **Random / Autonomous grouping – discussion – group sharing** (1 student each group)
    - Consensus / Discrepancies
    - Why? Why not? How? ...
- **3. Take-aways sharing**
  - Voluntary sharing; or Tophat open-ended questions;  
or discussion within your presentation group

# Major Purposes of the Government

- Maintaining order
  - Providing public goods
  - (Promoting equality)
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- Government chooses the proper mix of freedom, order, and equality in its policymaking.
  - In all of the three purposes, **which do you think is the least controversial / most important? Why? What would your life be without the purpose you chose?**
    - For Hobbes, it is probably maintaining order.
    - For the author of the textbook, it is providing public goods.

# Freedom, Order, and Equality

- Freedom & Order (the original dilemma)
  - **Freedom of: Absence of constraints**
  - Freedom from: Immunity from fear and want
  - (Freedom to do something)
    - For “freedom to do”, there’s assumed to be an inner tendency of “what should be done” (Certain rank of values, certain kind of “order”)
    - **Should freedom have any kind of prerequisites?**
- Freedom & Equality (the modern dilemma)
  - Political equality & Social equality
  - Equality of opportunity & Equality of outcome
  - **What is the boundary of the state power when using it to promote equality?**
- **NOTE: the political, economic, social & cultural perspectives**

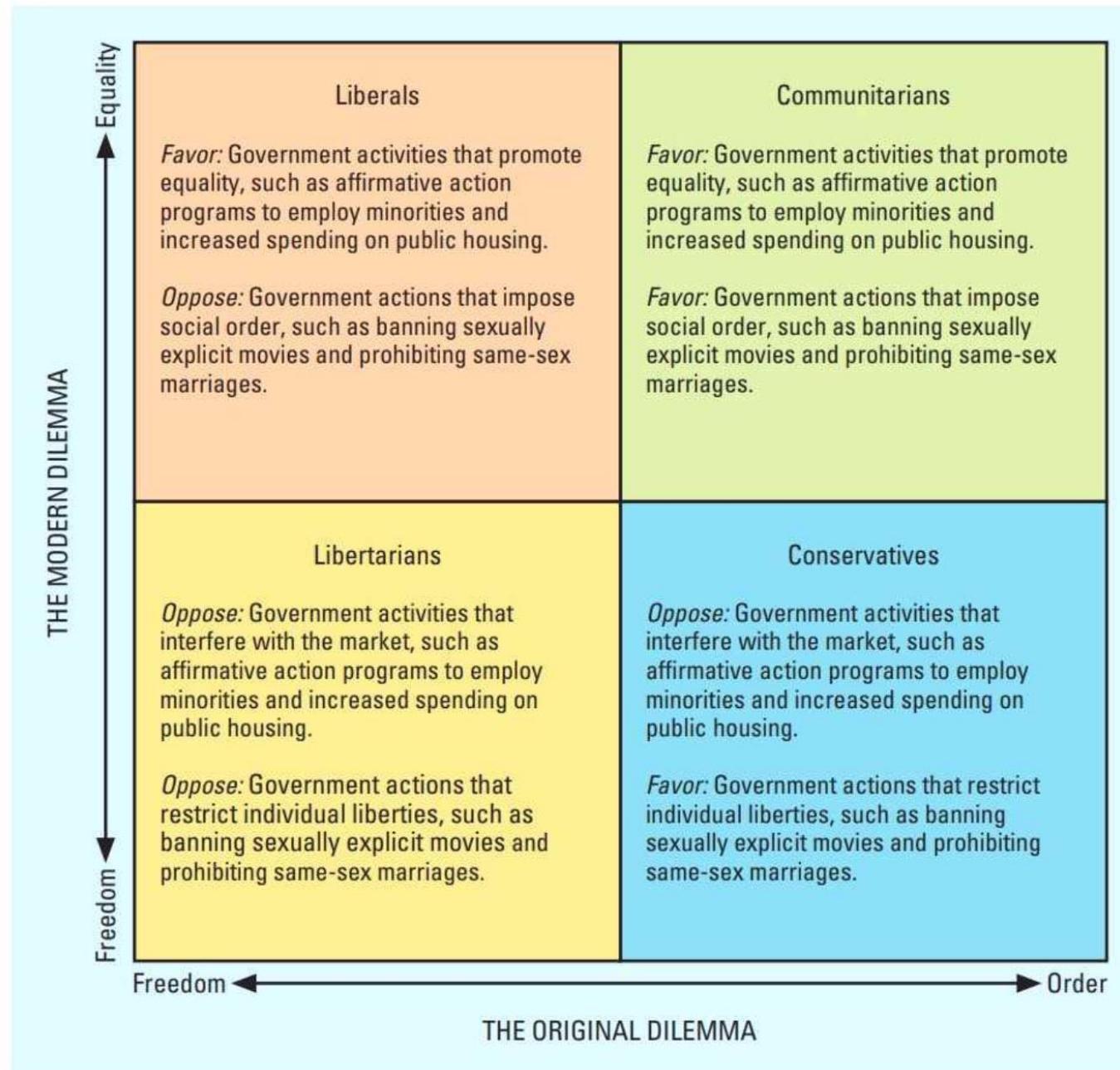
# Ideology Quizzes

- **In-class**
  - Ideology quiz (not graded) at <http://www.ideallog.org> (Choose self-test)
- If you want fine-grained categorization...
  - <https://sapplyvalues.github.io/>
  - We may do it in our last discussion section, to help you see whether you've changed a little after taking this course.
    - <https://theconversation.com/does-college-turn-people-into-liberals-90905> [Does college turn people into liberals?]
- **NOTE: Do not fix yourself in a certain position.** Just try to truly capture what you are thinking about, and consider “why I think like this”, “what shaped me in this way”.

# Ideologies

- **Socio-economic perspective**
  - Social: Freedom or order?
  - Economic: Freedom or equality?
- **2-dimensional ideology map**
  - On both social and economic issues, what are the sizes / purposes of the government?
  - Libertarian: small (freedom), small (freedom)
  - Communitarian: large (order), large (equality)
  - Conservative: large (order), small (freedom)
  - Liberal: small (freedom), large (equality)

Figure 1.2 Ideologies: A Two-Dimensional Framework



# Ideologies (cont`d)

- **Always be careful when “labeling others”!** – Ideologies can be confusing and misleading.
  - We like the “one dimension” (two opposite sides) of ideologies!
  - “Liberal” or “conservative” cannot fully capture the ideological distinctions!

# Democracy

- Procedural democracy: a form of government (how decisions are made)
  - **Universal participation, Political equality, Majority rule**
  - **(Representative / Indirect democracy) Responsiveness, Peaceful transition of power**
- Substantive democracy: what the government does (substance of policies)
  - Guaranteeing civil liberties & civil rights
- **What are the advantages / weaknesses of procedural democracy?**
- **What are the advantages / weaknesses of substantive democracy?**
- **Which type do you prefer? Why?**

# Procedural Democracy

- Majoritarian Model: government by the majority of the people
  - **Elections, Political Parties, Centralized government**
- Pluralist Model: government by competing interest groups
  - Competition (in lobbying), Decentralized government, Allow minorities to rule
- **Can majoritarian democracy be effective in reality?**
  - Critics: Individuals are not knowledgeable enough for MD to work.
  - Defenders: The people, as a whole, are stable and intelligent enough.
    - **A potential challenge:** “Sore loser effect”
- **In pluralistic democracy, why can the minorities always win?**
  - ANS 1: They are always the most powerful and wealthy ones.
  - **ANS 2: .....?**
- **REMEMBER:** They are both ideal models. Real democracy is some kind of mix-up of them (See American government).

# Next week...

- Read materials on **Constitutional Foundations** before class, and that will be helpful to participate in peer discussions.
- ENJOY YOUR WEEKEND!