

2. Political Values & Democracy

Breakout Sessions

POLS 1101

8:40am-9:35am Baldwin 322

& 9:55am-10:50am Journalism 509

SIYUAN (Siri) ZHAO

Siri.Zhao@uga.edu

<https://siyuanzhao-pa.github.io/>

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.idealogy.org> (Choose self-test)

- If you want fine-grained categorization...

- <https://sappryvalues.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.

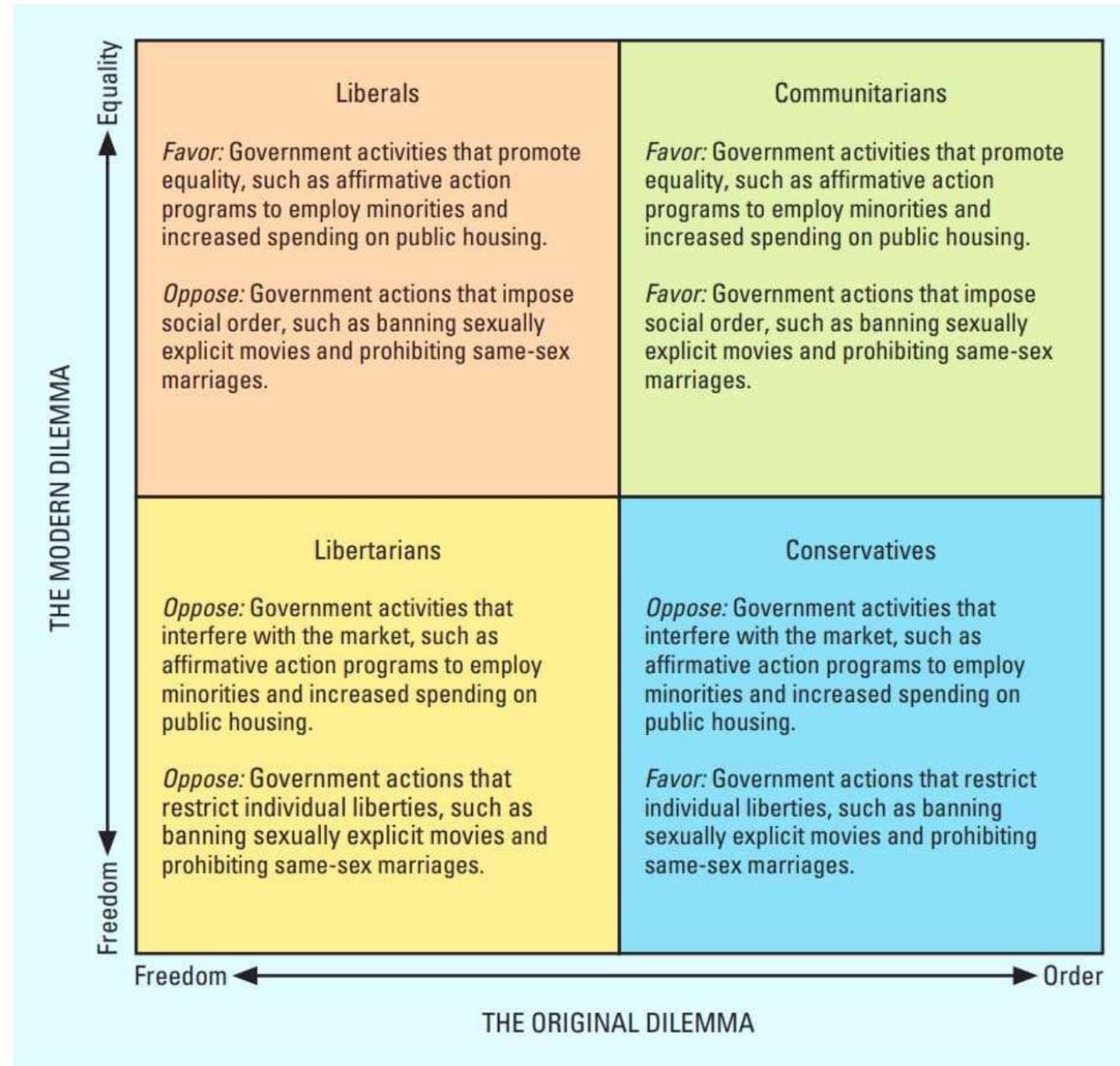
- <https://theconversation.com/does-college-turn-people-into-liberals-90905> [Does college turn people into liberals?]

- **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!