INTRODUCTION AND THE FOUNDING

J. Alexander Branham

Fall 2016

• GOV 310L

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- MWF 11 11:50

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- · Unique #: 38305

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- · Satisfies the first half of the legislative requirement

GOALS

Goals for students of the course:

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- 3. Critically examine key concepts from political science

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INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

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- The institutions and procedures through which a land and its people are ruled
- These can be simple or complex

WHY GOVERNMENT?

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- We're all farmers and one of us proposes to build an irrigation system. How
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 maintains it?
- Tragedy of the commons

Maintain order

- Maintain order
- Protect property

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- Protect property
- Provide public goods

THE BASIC POWER OF GOVERNMENT

Coercion!

WHO RULES?

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Democracy system that allows citizens to play a significant role in the governmental process, usually through selection of officials

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Totalitarian No formal limits and the state seeks to expand to basically all areas of life

WHAT IS POLITICS?

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 Conflict and struggles over the leadership, structure, and policies of government

THE FOUNDING

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- · Raised taxes on colonies, as they defended the colonies during the war
- This did not go over well

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 - Life
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- · Yes, when said government does not respect these rights
- Laundry list of complaints

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved;

and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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- · Independence granted in the Treaty of Paris (1783)

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 - No standing army

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- Quickly became apparent that the Articles needed to be scrapped and rewritten

Major issues:

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- Some solutions
 - Great compromise
 - Three-fifths compromise

Articles of Confederation one vote per state

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Virginia Plan representation based on population

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New Jersey plan one vote per state

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Connecticut compromise bicameral, House based on population and Senate representation equal by state

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 - · Federal government ability to veto state legislation

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- · Fundamental differences over:
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 - · Governmental power should we include a Bill of Rights?

Federalist Papers

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- Federalist 51: Separation of powers "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition"

THE CONSTITUTION

THE CONSTITUTION: ARTICLES I - II

• Article I: The legislative branch

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 - Electoral college

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 - · Several other agreements between states (extradition of fugitives, for example)

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- · Ratification of amendments:
 - 3/4 of state legislatures OR
 - Conventions in 3/4 of the states (used only once)

ARTICLES VI - VII

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- · Article VII: Ratification

THE AMENDMENTS

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- These are designed to limit the power of the federal government

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10th "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people"

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Prohibition (XVIII, XXI)