

**POLI 1001**  
**Fundamental Issues of Politics**  
**Fall 2021**  
**W 3:30-6:30**  
**212 Coates**

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
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Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00  
MWF 10:30-11:00  
MW 1:30-2:30

**OBJECTIVE:** This course Mostly designed as an introduction to what goes on in political science. It seeks to open doors to understanding the issues that preoccupy politics. How did political thinking emerge? How much value should we attach to imagination in today's world? Why is politics the object of so much "curse" and what is there to say in "praise" of politics?

Integrative learning is an understanding and a disposition that a student builds across the curriculum and co-curriculum, from making simple connections among ideas and experiences to synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus. This course fulfills the Board of Regents area of social science/behavioral sciences and provides students experience with the ILC primary proficiency of **inquiry and analysis** and secondary proficiencies of **ethical reasoning** and **civic engagement**.

Inquiry is a systematic process of exploring issues, objects or works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions or judgements. Analysis is the process of breaking complex topics or issues into parts to gain a better understanding of them. By the end of the semester, it is expected that students should come to accept politics as a vital academic tool for everyday experience.

### **COVID-19 Statement**

We remain under pandemic conditions and expect to be in this state for the entire semester. In order to consistently provide the highest quality LSU education, all students should follow current LSU guidelines. These include the following:

1. If you have any signs of illness, do not come to class.
2. In order to protect all campus community members, the University requires everyone to wear facemasks/cloths on campus. Failure to do so is a violation of the code of student conduct.
3. Wash hands with soap and water or clean with sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face.
4. If you have to cough or sneeze unexpectedly, please be mindful of others nearby and cough or sneeze into your elbow or shield yourself the best you can.
5. If you have been exposed to others who have tested positive for COVID-19, self-quarantine consistent with current [CDC guidelines](#).

**Daily Symptom Checker:**

You are required to respond to a daily symptom check request sent via email or text message each morning. Completing the symptom checker will take approximately one to two minutes. Once you have provided information about your symptoms, you will be given feedback on whether or not you are certified to return to campus and attend your classes. Additionally, if you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to report it in your daily symptom checker application.

**Resources for Students:** Your health and safety are LSU’s top priority. If you are feeling ill or overwhelmed with anxiety, please contact the [LSU Student Health Center](#) for medical advice and mental health support. General health care and mental health support are available for all enrolled students through telehealth appointments.

**Unexpected Changes to Courses:** Due to the unpredictable nature of the situation, the format of the course and/or requirements may be forced to change, and if this is the case the students will be given appropriate notification.

TEXT: There is one textbook required for this course, and needs to be purchased by everyone:

Wendy N. Whitman Cobb: *Political Science Today*. Sage, 20<sup>th</sup> edition.

You should also keep in touch with the kind of political news stories, as published in *The New York Times*, and its opinion page.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Attend all class sessions
- Get involved in class discussions
- Be knowledgeable in ongoing events
- Apply materials learned in class to papers, exams, and other assignments

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

Class Participation (Weekly)	10 pts
Test 1 (Take-Home) (Sept 8)	10 pts
Midterm (Oct 13)	20 pts
Assessment (Oct 13)	10 pts
Taking Sides Paper (Nov 15)	20 pts
Final (Dec 1)	30 pts

A+ 100 - 95	B+ 86.9 - 85	C+ 76.9 - 75	D+ 66.9-65
A 94.9 - 90	B 84.9 - 80	C 74.9 - 70	D 64.9-60
A- 89.9 - 87	B- 79.9 - 77	C- 69.9 - 67	D- 59-57
		F: Below 57	

## Course Outline and Lecture Topics

Aug 25-Sept 01	<u>Course Introduction – Everyone Attends</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is politics? Varied Perspectives</li><li>• Same Key Concepts:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Power-Authority</li><li>○ Nation-State</li><li>○ Freedom-Equality</li></ul></li><li>• The Challenge of Political Science:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Breakdown of Discipline</li><li>○ Integration and Fragmentation (Garand)</li></ul></li><li>• The Curse of Politics</li><li>• The Enduring Relevance of Politics: From the Pandemic to Black Lives Matter</li></ul>	Whitman Cobb, Chap. 1 & 2
Sept 08-15	The Emergence of Political Consciousness: Political Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought Leaders vs. Public Intellectuals</li><li>• The Ancients: Aristotle vs. Plato</li><li>• The Moderns: Hobbes vs. Locke</li><li>• Other key theorists</li></ul> <u>The Key Ideologies: Then vs. Now</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservatism</li><li>• Liberalism</li><li>• Socialism/Marxism</li><li>• Anarchism</li><li>• Feminism</li><li>• Third World-ism</li></ul>	Whitman Cobb, Chap. 3
Sept 8	<b>Take-Home Exam Due</b>	
Sept 22-29	<u>American Government: Is the “City on the Hill” fading?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Roots: the Natives, the Settlers, the Slaves, &amp; All</li><li>• The Traits: The Presidential System<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ State vs. Federal Jurisdiction</li></ul></li></ul>	

- Other aspects of the System (students input)
- The Novelty: Rise of Donald Trump; How did he come to power and what does this mean?

Political Socialization & Participation

Whitman Cobb, Chap. 4,5,6,7

- The Good Citizen Idea
- Political Parties and Interest Groups
- Elections and Protests

American Government: Is the “City on the Hill” fading?

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Oct 06 Assessment Overview and Review for Midterm

Oct 13 **Midterm: Essays & Multiple Choice**

Oct 20 Determining Taking Sides Paper topics

Oct 27 Comparative Politics: The Variety across Countries

- The Thematic vs. Case Study Approaches
- Presidential vs Parliamentary Systems
- The Western World: France & Britain
- The Marxist/Post Marxist: China & Russia

Nov 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Third World Types: Mexico &amp; India</li> </ul> <p>Military/Religious Types: Thailand/Nigeria &amp; Iran/Saudi Arabia</p> <p><u>International Relations: How the World Works:</u></p>	Whitman Cobb, Chap. 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories-Actors-Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Change and Continuity</li> <li>○ The Enduring Nation State</li> <li>○ Realism and Idealism</li> <li>○ Conflict and Cooperation</li> <li>○ World Government vs. Global Governance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Nov 10	<p><u>Political Economy: Government as Salesmen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestically: The Tax Debate</li> <li>• Internationally: The Trade Debate</li> <li>• Dwindling Interdependence? Brexit and Trump</li> </ul> <p>Public <u>Administration: The Bureaucracy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Service: Efficiency vs. Corruption</li> <li>• The Deep State Idea</li> </ul>	Whitman Cobb, Chap. 9
Nov 17	<p><u>Taking Sides Paper Due</u></p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>Review Session</p>	
Nov 24	<b>No Class</b>	
Dec 01	<b><u>Final Exam – Last Day of Class</u></b>	