

Political Science 100
Introduction to Politics: Anarchy, the State and Democracy
Hunter College
Spring 2020

Professor Leonard Feldman

Lecture: TUE, FRI 10:10 – 11 am (HW 615)
and

Discussion: TUE 11:10 am – 12 pm (W706) *or* WED 11:10 am – 12 pm (W706) *or* FRI
11:10 am – 12 pm (W706)

Professor Feldman's Contact Information:

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This course provides an introduction to some of the core concepts, problems and issues of political life as they emerge in three fields of political science: comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. The course is a suitable introduction to the field of political science for those thinking about majoring in the subject. In addition, it provides exposure to some classic texts and debates about state power and public action valuable for the practice of democratic citizenship.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester you will have learned:

- How to understand many of the basic concepts used in political analysis (e.g., politics, the state, power, virtue, structure, institution, regime, authority, democracy, liberalism, authoritarianism, anarchy, hierarchy, populism and representation);
- Different approaches, methods, and questions that characterize the three fields covered in the course;
- Critical reading and critical thinking skills;

- Writing skills, particularly the ability to build compelling, evidence-based arguments on major issues in politics and social science.

Political Science is a writing-intensive department, so students should expect to do a fair amount of substantive writing. Three papers and a take-home final are required and quizzes may be occasionally given in the lectures as well as in the discussion sections.

For Students with Documented Disabilities and/or Medical Conditions

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call (212) 772-4857/or VRS (646) 755-3129.

Academic Integrity

Any deliberate borrowing of the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgment of the source is intellectual theft and is called plagiarism. It is not plagiarism to borrow the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others if the source is clearly and specifically acknowledged. Students who consult such critical material and wish to include some of the insights, ideas, or statements encountered must provide full citations in an appropriate form. Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. If you are unfamiliar with these policies, or unfamiliar with what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult:

<http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=234>

Online Elements of the Class

There are two online components of the class that are required: Blackboard and Top Hat.

1. We will use **Blackboard** regularly to communicate information, post assignments, slides and study questions, and post grades. In addition, all readings will be made available as PDF documents on the Blackboard site for our class. Finally, you will be submitting an electronic copy of each of the three essays and the take-home final via the “Turnitin Assignment” function within Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly. You also need to make sure that Blackboard has an email address for you and that it’s an email address you check regularly. If it’s not, change your email address on Blackboard by clicking

“Update Email” on the tools menu.

2. We will be using the **Top Hat** (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if you don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website:

<https://app.tophat.com/e/426125>

Note: our Course Join Code is 426125. Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Requirements

- Class participation (25%). Class participation involves consistent, regular attendance at lecture and at your assigned discussion section. For lecture, this means checking in via Top Hat at the beginning of each lecture and responding to any survey questions or quizzes via Top Hat during lecture. For discussion section, it includes coming to section having done the assigned reading, participating in class discussion, and completing any in-class writing, small-group projects and/or quizzes therein. **Lecture attendance** and **question response** in Top Hat will be worth **10 percent** of your final grade. Attendance and participation in your **discussion section** will be worth **15 percent** of your final grade.
- Two page paper due **February 14th** on Blackboard (on-time completion increases your participation grade by 1/3)
- Four-page paper due **March 2nd** on Blackboard (20%)
- Six-page paper due **April 7th** on Blackboard (25%).
- Eight page take-home final due **May 19th** on Blackboard (30%)

Late Papers: Unless you have a documented medical emergency, a paper not received by the deadline in electronic form via Blackboard will be marked down a third of a grade (e.g., an A will become A-, A- will become B+, etc.) for each day that it is late.

Required Readings

All reading assignments for this course are available on Blackboard. Readings are to be completed *prior* to each class session. Please bring a copy of the reading with you to class if possible.

Additional Expectations

- You are expected to show up for lecture **on time**. Coming in late is disruptive to other students.
- You are expected to do the assigned reading before class and to bring the particular text or texts to lecture.
- You may use your phone to check-in with top hat and respond to questions, but no extracurricular cellphone use is permitted. Any other electronic device (laptop, tablet) may only be used for note-taking or consulting the readings.

Schedule of classes and assigned readings

Tuesday January 28: Course Introduction

Friday January 31st: – Politics and the Comparison of States

Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, chapters 1-2, Book III, chapters 6-7

I. Anarchy and Its Critics

Tuesday February 4th: The Anarchist Critique of State Violence

Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For”

David Graeber, “Occupy Wall Street’s Anarchist Roots”

Friday February 7th: Hobbes’s Critique of Anarchism

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, introduction, chpts 13, 14.

Tuesday February 11th: Hobbes’s Security State

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* chpts XVII, XVIII

Friday February 14th: Are International Relations a Hobbesian State of Nature?

John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power”

First Paper due Friday February 14th on Blackboard

Tuesday February 18th: Locke’s State of Nature

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters I, II, III

Friday February 21st: Locke's "Liberal" Limited Government

Locke, *Second Treatise*, chpt VII (Paragraph 93), chpt VIII (Paragraph 95), chpt IX, chpt XI, XVIII, XIX

Tuesday February 25th: Are International Relations a Lockean State of Nature?

Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society* excerpt

II. The State and Its Borders

Friday February 28th: How Do We Conceptualize the State?

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" excerpt and "The Three Types of Legitimate Rule"

Second Paper due Monday March 2nd on Blackboard

Tuesday March 3rd: How Do States Emerge?

Charles Tilly, "War-Making and State-Making as Organized Crime"

Friday March 6th: Is the South African State Weberian?

Nicholas Rush Smith, *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa*, chapter 9

Tuesday March 10th: Is the U.S. State Weberian?

Caroline Light, *Stand Your Ground* chapter 7

Friday March 13th: The State as Protector of the Market

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*, chapter 1

Tuesday March 17th: The State and Class Struggle

Marx and Engels, *Communist Manifesto*
Film: *Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream*

Friday March 20th: The Material Borders of the State

Wendy Brown, "Waning Sovereignty, Walled Democracy"

Tuesday March 24th: The Border (Zone) as a State of Exception

Margaret Dorsey and Miguel Díaz-Barriga, “The Constitution Free Zone in the United States: Law and Life in a State of Carcelment”

Friday March 27th: The Necessity of Borders

Michael Walzer, “Membership”

Tuesday March 31st: Against Borders

Joseph Carens, “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders”

III. Democracy, the People and Public Space

Friday April 3rd: Models of Democracy and Spaces of Democracy

David Held, “Democracy: From City-states to a Cosmopolitan Order?”

Third Paper due: Tuesday April 7th on Blackboard (There’s no class meeting on this day as classes follow a Wednesday schedule.)

Spring Break

Friday April 17th: Representative versus Direct Democracy: Is Representation Democratic?

Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book II, chapters 1-3, Book III, chapter 15.

Tuesday April 21st: Reconsidering Representation

Madison, *Federalist #10*

Friday April 24th Neither “Direct” nor “Representative”: Democracy as the Politicizing of Exclusion

Jacques Ranciere, “Democracy, Republic, Representation” *Hatred of Democracy*

Tuesday April 28: Democracy and Public Space

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, pp. 50-58

Jill Colvin, “Occupy Wall Street Puts Spotlight on Privately Owned Public Spaces”

Bonnie Honig, “The President’s House is Empty” *Boston Review*

Friday May 1st: The Newspaper and the Newsfeed 

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* pp. 30-36

Monika Bauerlein and Clara Jeffery, "It's the End of News as We Know It (and Facebook is Feeling Fine)," *Mother Jones*

Tuesday May 5th: Does Authoritarian Populism come from Too Little Democracy or Too much?

Michael Lind, *The New Class War*, excerpt

Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, "Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism: Economic Have-Nots and Cultural Backlash"

Friday May 8th: Comparative Analysis of Populisms and Regime Change

Robert Lieberman et al, "The Trump Presidency and American Democracy: A Historical and Comparative Perspective"

Cas Mudde and Cristobal Rovira Kaltwasser, "Exclusionary vs. Inclusionary Populism: Comparing Contemporary Europe and Latin America"

Tuesday May 12th: Review and Conclusions

Take-Home Final due Tuesday May 19th on Blackboard