

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Political Science 200A
Foundations of Political Science

Fall Quarter 2016
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Foundations of Political Science is an overview of the intimate relationship between theory and data. It explores ways in which political philosophy and empirical theories structure the questions political scientists ask, the cases they choose to compare, the dependent and independent variables they link in hypotheses, and the answers they are likely to find when analyzing empirical data.

- I. What is Empirical Political Theory?
- II. Four Alternative Axiomatic Foundations for Empirical Political Theory
 - A. Political Realism
 - B. Positive Political Economy
 - C. Marxian (Structural) Political Economy
 - D. Political Sociology
- III. Contending Approaches Applied to Four Recurring Issues
 - A. Micro-Behavior: Vote Choice
 - B. Levels of Analysis: Political Violence
 - C. Macro-Outcomes: Institutions as Consequences and Constraints

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Readings and Participation. Please come prepared each week to discuss all of the readings. All assigned readings are available on a closed course web-site. The web-site address will be provided in class.

Writing Assignment. You should complete a ten-page paper that represents the first half of a prospectus, sketching the theoretical development that supports an empirical research project. This assignment is described in a separate document. You should present verbally a ten-minute overview of the paper during the tenth-week meeting of the seminar. The paper is due on the Monday of finals week.

Week 1. What is Empirical Political Theory?

Karl R. Popper. 1968. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, 2d ed. New York: Harper & Row. Chapters 1.0-1.1, 1-3-1.8, 3.0, 3.12, and 3.16.

Thomas S. Kuhn. 1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 2d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2, 4, 6-8, 12.

Imre Lakatos. 1970. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes." In *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, edited by Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave, 91-195. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Parts 1, 3.0, 3a-b, 3d.0, 3d.4, and 4.

Week 2. Political Realism

- Thomas Hobbes. 1651. *The Leviathan: Or the Matter, Forme, and Power of a Commonwealth Ecclesiasticall and Civil*. London. Chapters 10 ¶1-16; 11 ¶1-2; 13 entire; 14 ¶1-9, 27-33; 17 entire; 18 ¶1.
- James Madison. 1787-8. *Federalist Papers*, No. 10 and 51.
- David R. Mayhew. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pp. 1-7, 13-19, 81-105.
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson, and James D. Morrow. 2005. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Hans J. Morgenthau. 1948. *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. New York: Knopf. Chapter 1 and 3 §1. (*skim*)

Week 3. Positive Political Economy

- Jeremy Bentham. 1789. *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*. Oxford. Chapters 1 (particularly §1-13) and 4.
- Adam Smith. 1776. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. Book I, Chapters 1 (particularly ¶1-4, 10-11) and 2, and Book IV, Chapter 2 (particularly ¶1-15).
- Samuel Popkin. 1979. *The Rational Peasant: The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Partha Dasgupta. 1988. "Trust as a Commodity." In *Trust: Making and Breaking Cooperative Relations*, edited by Diego Gambetta, 49-72. New York: Basil Blackwell.
- Douglass C. North. 1981. *Structure and Change in Economic History*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 3.

Week 4. Marxian (Structural) Political Economy

- Friedrich Engels. 1880. "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific." Part III.
- Friedrich Engels. 1884. "The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State." Part IX §3-4.
- Michael Hechter. 1999. *Internal Colonialism: The Celtic Fringe in British National Development*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Gabriel Palma. 1978. "Dependency: A Formal Theory of Underdevelopment or a Methodology for the Analysis of Concrete Situations of Underdevelopment?" *World Development* 6 (July-August), 881-924. (*Do not get bogged down in the details of ideological differences in this article.*)
- You might also look at: James A. Caporaso. 1978. "Dependence, Dependency, and Power in the Global System: A Structural and Behavioral Analysis." *International Organizations* 32 (Winter), 13-43.

Week 5. Political Sociology

- Harry Eckstein. 1988. "A Culturalist Theory of Political Change." *American Political Science Review* 82 (September), 789-804.
- Anthony Giddens. 1976. "Introduction." In Max Weber (1976 [1904-5]), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: George Allen and Unwin.
- James C. Scott. 1976. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1.
- Robert Putnam. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 (entire) and 6 (particularly pp. 167-185).

- You might also look at: Ted Hopf. 1998. "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory." *International Security* 23 (Summer), 171-200.

Week 6. Micro-Behaviors: Vote Choice

- Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. Chapter 19.
- Seymour Martin Lipset. 1960. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. New York: Doubleday and Company. Chapter 7.
- Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Row. Chapter 3.
- Morris P. Fiorina. 1981. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1 (particularly pp. 3-17).
- Samuel L. Popkin. 1994. *The Reasoning Voter: Communication and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Prologue, Chapter 1.
- Donald Green, Bradley Palmquist, and Erick Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1.

Week 7. Levels of Analysis: Political Violence

- Barry R. Posen. 1993. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict." *Survival* 35 (Spring), 27-47.
- Ted Robert Gurr. 1970. *Why Men Rebel*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Samuel P. Huntington. 1996. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Chapter 1 §1-2; Chapter 2 §1; and Chapter 6. (In particular, pp. 19-29, 40-5, 125-30.)
- Theda Skocpol. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.
- James D. Fearon. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (June), 379-414.

Week 8. Macro-Outcomes: Institutions/The Origins of Democracy

- Brian M. Downing. 1992. *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 (entire) and 10 (particularly pp. 239-242, 246-251).
- Barrington Moore, Jr. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1967. Chapters 7, 8, and 9.
- Douglass C. North and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *Journal of Economic History* 49 (December), 803-32.
- Alexis deTocqueville. 1835. *Democracy in America*. Chapter 17, § 2-9 (particularly pp. 8-26).

Week 9. Macro-Outcomes: How Institutions Constrain Behavior

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Row. Chapter 4.

- You might also look at: Avner Greif. 2006. *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy: Lessons from Medieval Trade*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

William H. Riker. 1982. "The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 76 (December), 753-66.

Kenneth A. Shepsle. 1992. "Congress Is a 'They,' Not an 'It': Legislative Intent as Oxymoron." *International Review of Law and Economics* 12 (June), 239-256.

Samuel P. Huntington. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1 (particularly pp. 1-59, 78-92).

- You might also look at: James G. March and Johan P. Olsen. 1989. *Rediscovering Institutions: The Organizational Basis of Politics*. New York: The Free Press. Chapter 9.

Peter A. Hall and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44 (December), 936-57.

Week 10. Presentations of Projects