

Political Science 107

Political Parties and Pressure Groups

Semester I, 1951-1952
Brown University

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Course Procedure

The course will be conducted with a maximum of student participation. The topics listed below will serve as the guide to the class meetings. Examinations on classwork and reading will be held in the middle of the term and at its end.

Each student will prepare an original paper based on field work or first-level library sources. The subject of the paper will be discussed at one of the first meetings of the class.

Readings

Each student is expected to have read during the semester all of the following works. It is advisable to read them in the order listed and within the time period suggested.

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| Harold Lasswell, POWER AND PERSONALITY | - 1st & 2nd weeks |
| Roberto Michels, FIRST LECTURES IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY | - 3rd week |
| David Truman, THE GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS | - 4th to 8th week |
| V. O. Key, POLITICS, PARTIES, AND PRESSURE GROUPS | - 9th to 13th week |
| Graham Wallas, HUMAN NATURE IN POLITICS | - 14th & 15th weeks |

Outline of Study Topics

I. Political Values and Interests

The analysis of the basic social and economic factors that shape political goals and channel political behavior.

1. Personality and Politics

The origins of political behavior in personal history and the effects on political behavior of different character-types; the relation of motives to action.

2. Ecology of Political Activity

The distribution of politically-occupied persons in a society; the types of political activity; factors affecting the proportion of active persons in a society.

3. The Political Community

The common political experience of men, their shared goals, and the various efforts--ethically and objectively--to "find" the community.

4. Social Specialization and Political Interests

Social separatism in the community: its origins in the division of labor and territorial localism, and its impact on the political personality and the political community.

5. Ideologies

The major fixed beliefs found in a community, their origins, their contents, their generality, and their effects on political behavior; consensus.

6. Public Opinion

The development of specific attitudes from the interaction of issues, ideologies, and institutions; the role of such attitudes in giving direction to the political process.

7. Social Strata and Elites

The division of the community into prestige classes and its effects on personality, community ties, and social separatism; the relation of the power pyramid to the distribution of other goods.

8. Political Mobility

The contribution of the political process to high social mobility; the lack of class character among the politically active.

II. Mobilization of Political Forces

The organization of political interests for participation in the political process.

1. Political Leadership

The origins and functions of political leadership; leader-follower relationships.

2. Influence Network of the Great Society

The informal centers of political decision and their relationships; unorganized and informal political communications channels; cliques, cartels, opinion groups, electors, political associates, cronies.

3. The Media of Communication

The distribution, ownership, control, and political role of press, radio, and film.

4. The Organization of Pressure Groups

The varieties of interest groups and their internal government; patterns of overlapping involvements.

5. Political Party Organization

The machinery of a political party; party aims as reflected in party structure; effects of party legal position upon party organization.

6. Oligarchy in Organizations

Group and party elites; attempts to counterbalance oligarchic tendencies; schisms and revolts; assessment of the extent of oligarchic rule.

III. Formal Representation of Values

The incorporation of political interests and values in the structure and operations of government.

1. Representative Government

The complicated and disputed origins of representative government, the various roles ascribed to it by different writers, and the extent to which any form of representative government may be said to influence continuously the character of a society.

2. Territorial Representation

Localism, territorial apportionment, federalism; devices (formal and informal) for the disproportionate representation of interests that arise from ecology, land ownership, and the local community.

3. Representation of Individuals

The growth of individualism; the isolated person as the basis of representation; the increased use of the majority principle; attempts to build representative government around freely interacting and nonbureaucratic associations.

4. Pluralism and Interest Representation

Nonterritorial interests; guilds; professional associations and self-governing economic and social fractions; conditions underlying the pluralist development; the competition for special authority, and the various devices used to coordinate interest representatives and general public officers.

5. The Representative Character of Parties

The party as self-interest and clearing house for other individuals and groups; the party as the government; theories postulating the party as identical with government or as identical with special interests.

IV. The Engineering of Favorable Policies

The short-term struggle to set public policy, given a certain representative structure.

1. Propaganda

The manipulation of symbols to change the opinions of elites and the general population; the control of media as a necessary condition; peculiarities of the political audience; analysis of the effects of propaganda.

2. Money in Politics

The sources of political financing and the method of using money to obtain political influence.

3. Organizational Manuevor

The maximizing of group and organization support for policies; the tactics of organization politics; the political campaign.

4. Lobbying Tactics

Involving the individual politician, administrator, and cliques or committees of the government in support of policy proposals.

5. Parliamentary Manuevor

The corporate character of legislatures; oligarchy in legislatures; relation of rules of procedure to informal influence; bargaining, and compromise; summation of the effects of the political process on the behavior of representatives.

V. Effects of the Governing Process on Policies

The extent to which the output of the governing process reflects accurately the input of political motives.

1. Rationality in Policy Formation

The fate of conscious attempts to rationalize the legislative process so as to make it representative of selected interests and values and productive of effects in accord with them.

2. Bureaucratic Reformulations

Typical bureaucratic responses to superordinate directives and to external forces of groups and opinion; the applicability and effects of directives under stress of behavioral principles.

3. Politics and Intended Effects

The political significance of typical gaps between the intended and actual results of purposive behavior; politics as the conditioner of plans; political science and rational policy.