

Political Science 229

A calendar and working outline of the Course in Scope and Methods In Political Science

This outline is designed to accommodate the prescribed Syllabus of William Anderson to the backgrounds and interests of the members of the Seminar, summer term, 1949.

Following the title of each session beginning with ^{June 27} ~~June 27~~, a paper will be presented by a member of the Seminar. This paper will relate to the general title and will treat with a major substantive proposition in the area. The object of the paper will be to analyze from the standpoint of method the proposition, breaking it down completely as to the semantics of the problem, the potential utility of its solution, and past, present and conceivable methods and techniques available to solve it, giving precedent studies whenever possible. John Stuart Mill's statement is to be general procedure of the seminar: "Doubtless, the most effectual mode of showing how the sciences of Ethics and Politics may be constructed, would be to construct them; a task which, it needs scarcely be said, I am not about to undertake. But even if there were no other examples, the memorable one of Bacon would be sufficient to demonstrate that it is sometimes both possible and useful to point out the way, though without being oneself prepared to adventure far into it." Professor Anderson's syllabus will give useful hints and bibliography for undertaking such a paper. The member of the Seminar will accompany his paper with full citations of sources.

In addition to participating in the discussion, and preparing and reading his paper at the appropriate session, each member is asked to achieve a general familiarity with the following works:

Harold D. Lasswell, "The Developing Science of Democracy," Chap. II in The Future of Government in the United States (Chicago, 1942); George A. Lundberg, Social Research (New York, 1942); and Felix Kaufman, Methodology of the Social Sciences (New York, 1944).

June 15 - Introduction and Discussion of individual concerns.

June 16 - Discussion of Bibliography
Perception problems in Social Science
Ideological factors in Perception
Preferences and fact statements

June 20 - The Problem of Communication - Diff. betw. commun. & convincing
Semantics
Concepts

June 22 - Differences and Similarities among Social and Natural sciences
(Kaufmann and Lundberg)

June 23 - The scope of the various social sciences (Lasswell and Lundberg)

June 27 - Utility and meaning of major concepts in political science
(presented by Mr. Johanson)

June 29 - Basic questions of the reliability and validity of certain psychological studies with reference to their utility as evidence in making generalizations in political science (presented by Mr. Norland)

Is on Reserve

*So are general works
listed in Anderson Biblio.
& S. Chase Paper Study?*

Marxism, Lundberg Soc. Res.

is in Gen. Res.

- June 30 - The Limits of reliable and valid generalizations in political science
(Presented by Mr. Ellertson)
- July 5 - ~~(presented by _____ 2:00)~~
- July 6 - Problems in the development of new techniques for the study of problems of high level of generalization with many factors. (presented by Mr. Peterson)
- July 7 - The position and relation of values to the teaching of political science.
(Presented by Mr. Hallman)
- July 11 - Problems in the study of values in colonial relationships among nations
(presented by Mr. MacIntosh)
- July 13 - Scientific problems in the elimination of bias among editors and reporters
(presented by Mr. MacIven)
- July 14 - Organization of the press and the redefinition of the "competition in the free market" theory of liberty of the press (presented by Mr. Rosenberg)
- July 18 - The effect of historical events on the relations of economics and political science as bodies of scientific doctrine. (presented by Mr. Laram)
- July 20 - Methods of studying basic problems of the Welfare State (presented by Mr. Schey)
- July 21 - Methods of studying international relations (presented by Mr. Tollefson)