

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII @MANOA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Course Syllabus

POL 110: Introduction to Political Science

Spring 2008

Instructor: Ponipate Rokolekutu

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Class Schedule: MWF 12.30-1.20pm

Building: KUY 310

Office Hours: Fri 11.00am-12.00pm

Course Description:

Politics is often ill understood. It is too often perceived as cynical and subsidiary from the normative interaction of society. But what is politics? What is the role of politics in society? What is the relationship between politics and government? To what extent does politics influence human relations and the ways in which government and its institutions function? These are some of the questions that will be critically examined in the course.

The course is designed to achieve three major goals. Firstly it seeks to ignite the political consciousness of students and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the role of politics in human society. Secondly the course introduces and critically examines concepts such as power, ethnicity, ideology, state, globalization, governance, sovereignty, legitimacy, etc with a particular focus on the Pacific Island Countries (PIC's). It examines the concept of democracy; the various features that entail democracy and explores the multi facet nature of democracy. Students will examine the ways in which PIC's have synthesized democracy with indigenous forms of governance and the complexity that emerge from such synthesis. Thirdly the course is designed to instill critical thinking and enable students formulate intelligible opinions about contemporary political issues and also to place the Pacific Islands region within the political cartography of international politics.

Texts

The readings are drawn from a variety of sources and will be sent to you in advance through emails.

Internet Resources on Pacific Islands Issues:

The Pacific Islands Report, <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/>

Assessment

Attendance and Participation in class 20%: You are expected to attend every class and to participate and engage actively in class discussion. You are also expected to make notes and learn from your colleagues in class. Your contribution in weekly discussions will be reflective of how much you engage yourself with the assigned readings. You will be assigned to a group that will make presentation and lead the class discussion during the class. Presentations should include little on summary and more on your reflections and views on issues highlighted in the readings. Presentations can be in the form of formal presentation, debate, power point, role play, video, skit etc. You are also required to present your research paper during the final week.

Weekly Journals 50%: Weekly journals should be 2-3 pages long and must include a brief summary of the weekly readings as well as thoughtful and critical reflections on the issues raised in the readings. Journals must be typed, double spaced and turned in (in the form of hard copy) during the last class of the week. You must submit 14 journals out of the sixteen weeks of the semester. Journals will be graded and returned to the student on every following Monday.

Research Paper 15%: The research paper will reflect students' knowledge of issues presented in the course and one's ability to critically and analytically present his/her views coherently on a given political issue or event. Essay must be typed double spaced and should be between 5-7 pages long. You must choose a topic of interest to you, but it must be based on the readings of the course as well as the discussions and issues raised in class. **You are to discuss your topic with me first before you proceed with your research.**

Book Review 10%: You will be required to write a book review. The text for review will be decided later in the semester. The review should be 3-5 pages long.

Research Paper Outline: 5%: An outline of your research paper is due on week 9. Outline should be 1-2 pages and should include a research topic, research rationale (why you are interested in the research topic) methodology and an abstract.

Ground Rules

1. We will discuss important, interesting, difficult and sensitive topics. Respectful disagreement and debate are welcome. Personal attacks, however, will not be tolerated.
2. Be on time. Our class time is limited. If you are late on the first five minutes then do not come at all, because you will be missing 20% of the things you need to know in the class.
3. Late journals will NOT be accepted
4. Three unexcused absences will mean a failed grade
5. Please see me if you have a problem or issues that you feel will affect your final grade in this course.
6. Cell phones MUST be turned off during every class
7. Be respectful of others and be quiet while waiting for the class to begin

Part One: Introduction: Politics, the Nation State, Political Philosophy and Ideologies

Week 1: Introduction

Questions:

What is Politics? What is the role of politics in society? Are people inherently political? What makes an act political? Is politics isolated from the normative interaction of society? What is political science and what is the role of political scientists?

Readings:

- Leftwich A, "Introduction On the Politics of Politics", *What is Politics* Basil Blackwell Publisher Limited 1984
- Crick B, "In Praise of Politics", *In Defense of Politics* University of Chicago Press, 1962
- Magstadt T. and Schotten P. "Political Perspectives" in *Understanding Politics*, St. Martin's Press, NY, 1984.

Week 2: Nation State

Questions:

What is the major difference between nation and state? What are the characteristics of the nation state? What are the politics of the nation state? What is the sovereignty of the nation state?

Readings:

- Lewellen T.C. "The Evolution of the State", *Political Anthropology: An Introduction*, Bergin & Harvey, Westport, Connecticut, London, 1992.
- Shively, W. P. "The Modern State", *Power and Choice* (11th edition), MacGraw-Hill, New York, 2008.
- <http://www.answers.com/topic/nation-state>
- <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-nation-state.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation_state

Week 3: Politics and Power, Understanding Karl Marx and Michelle Foucault's Conceptions of Power

Questions:

How does Karl Marx define power? How different is Karl Marx's conception of power from that of Michelle Foucault? How does Karl Marx theorize the state and what does he mean with the "withering away of the state"? Is politics essentially about the study of power?

Readings:

- Mandel, E. "The State in the Age of Late Capitalism". *Late Capitalism*, Suhrkamp Verlag, 1972.
- Michel Foucault. The Subject and Power (1982), Excerpt From "The Subject and Power" in: "*Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*" University of Chicago, (p. 208), 1982.
- Felluga, Dino. "Modules on Foucault: On Power." *Introductory Guide to Critical Theory*. Nov. 28, 2003. Purdue U. Jan. 9, 2009.

<<http://www.purdue.edu/guidetotheory/newhistoricism/modules/foucaultpower.html>>.

Week 4: Political Philosophy and Ideologies

Questions:

What are the major assumptions that underscore the political philosophies of the Aristotle, The Stoics, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Karl Marx? What are their points of concurrence and in what ways do they differ? How do their political philosophies reflected (or not reflected) in modern forms of governance?

Readings:

- Slann, M. "Government, State, and Political Philosophy", Introduction to Politics: Governments and Nations in the Post cold War Era, MacGraw Hill, 1998.
- Heyhood, "Introduction" *Political Ideologies* (Palgrave: Macmillan, 2003)
- Shively, W. P. "Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy" *American Ideologies* pp22-27), *Power and Choice*, (11th edition), MacGraw-Hill, New York, 2008.

Part Two: Colonial and Post Colonial Politics in the Pacific Islands

Week 5: Locating and Placing the Pacific Islands within International Political Cartography

Identify all the countries and territories of the Pacific Island region (map exercise). Name some of the major political events that have occurred in each of these Islands. Which of these Pacific Island Countries are independent and which ones are not?

Readings:

Crocombe, R. "Chronology", *The South Pacific: An Introduction*, University of the South Pacific, 2008.

Video: TBA

Week 6: Re-conceptualizing the Pacific Islands

Questions:

How does the Pacific Islands feature in international politics? How is the Pacific Islands or Oceania, as a region, perceived by significant actors in the international political scene? What are the prevailing notions of Oceania? How has Epeli Hau'ofa's re-conceptualization of the Oceania influenced the ways in which Pacific Islands are viewed in contemporary political discourse?

Readings:

- Hau'ofa, E. "Our Sea of Islands", (ed. In), *A New Oceania: Rediscovering Our Sea of Islands*. Suva: USP, (Pp. 2-16) 1993.

- Hau'ofa, E. "The Ocean in Us", (ed. in), *We the Ocean: Selected Works*, University of Hawaii Press, 2008.

Week 7: Colonialism in the Pacific Islands

Questions:

Who are colonial powers in the Pacific Islands, What are the implications of labeling and categorizing Pacific Islands into Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia? Readings:

K. R. Howe, et al. "Precolonial times", *Tides of History: the Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century*, St. Leonards, N.S.W. Allen & Unwin, 1994.

Moore, C. *Inventing Melanesia*, History Department, University of Queensland, 12th Pacific History Association Conference, 22-26 June 1998.

Video: TBA

Week 8: American, British and French Colonialism in the Pacific

Questions:

What are the fundamental differences between American, British and French Colonialism? What are the fundamental effects of colonialism on Pacific Island people and their culture?

Readings:

Finney B. R. "Nuclear Hostages," *From Sea to Space*. Massey University, 1992.

Ashbolt, A. *U.S. Colonialism in Micronesia*, From Arena # 49,1977.

Week 9: Decolonization in the Pacific Islands

Questions:

What are the forces behind decolonization? Does political independence mean economic prosperity for Pacific Islanders? What is neo-colonialism? What are some of the colonial legacies that have shaped post colonial politics in the Pacific Islands?

Readings:

Chappell, "The Post-Contact Period," ed. In, *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society* Bess Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. 1999.

Wesley-Smith, "Changing Patterns of Power," ed. In *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*, Bess Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. 1999.

Video: *Freedom 2000 striving towards a nuclear free and independent Pacific*

Week 10: US Militarization in Micronesia

Questions:

What is militarization? What are the reasons for the continued U.S. presence in Micronesia? What has Micronesia to gain from such presence? What are the socio

economic, cultural and environmental impacts of US militarization in Micronesia?

Readings:

- Johnson, G. American military needs in Micronesia : valid perceptions or unnecessary contingencies?. Honolulu, Hawaii : Pacific Concerns Resource Center, 1982.
- Webb, J. H. Jr. Micronesia and U.S. Pacific strategy: a blueprint for the 1980s. New York, Praeger Publishers, 1974.

You tube:

http://video.google.com/videosearch?as_sitesearch=youtube.com&hl=en&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=7H8&q=militarization+guam+site:youtube.com&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=pBTFSqTHKIsMMvd6PIH&sa=X&oi=video_result_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CA4QwQwAa

http://video.google.com/videosearch?as_sitesearch=youtube.com&hl=en&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=7H8&q=militarization+guam+site:youtube.com&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=pBTFSqTHKIsMMvd6PIH&sa=X&oi=video_result_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CA4QwQwAA

Week 11: The politics of ethnicity and land; and military coups in Fiji

Questions:

What are the causes of ethnic tension in Fiji? How do Fijians conceptualize land? To what extent have indigenous Fijian elites politicize such conception to maintain power? What are the causes of the military coups in Fiji? How do you define the paramountcy of indigenous Fijian interests?

Readings:

Lawson, S. *Ethnic Politics and the State in Fiji*, Working Paper N. 135, Canberra, September, 1993.

Lawson, S. *The Myth of Cultural Homogeneity and its Implications for Chiefly Power and Politics in Fiji*, in *The Journal of Pacific History*, Vol. 36, No. 1, Routledge, 2001.

Rokolekutu, P. *The Politics and Land and the Paradox of Indigenous Ownership: The Case of Fiji*, Unpublished MA thesis, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2007.

Video: *Race Over Rights*

Week 12: Democratization in Tonga

Questions:

What is a constitutional monarchy? What is the nature of Tonga's representative government? How much power does the King has? What are the major causes of discontentment among ordinary Tongans? What aspect of democracy are absent in Tonga? In what ways have the Tongans articulated their desires for change?

Readings:

Matangi Tonga. *Tonga's choice: dictatorship or democracy?* March 18, 2008.

Matangi Tonga. *Tonga's democratization evolution.* October 2, 2008.

Video: *Tonga democracy*

Part Three: Globalization and the Pacific Islands

Week 13: Globalization

Questions:

What is globalization? What are the forces that facilitated globalization in the Pacific Islands? What are the major issues, events and trends associated with globalization in the Pacific Islands? What are some of the major issues raised by Lockwood and Firth?

Readings:

- Lockwood Victoria S. *The Global Imperative and Pacific Island Societies* (ed. in) *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice, 2004
- Firth, S, "The Pacific Islands and the Globalization Agenda", *Australia in International Politics: An Introduction to Australian Foreign Policy*, Allen and Unwin, 2005.

Video:

- Life and Debt

Week 14: Impacts of Globalization

Questions:

What are the impacts of globalization on Pacific Island Societies? What are the main issues discussed in the readings.

Readings:

- Firth, S. "Pacific Islands Trade, Labor and Security in the Era of Globalization", (ed in), *The Contemporary Pacific*, Vol. 19, No. 1, (pp. 111-135), Spring 2007.
- Nero, K. Fermina, B. m. and Michael, L. B. "The Meaning of Works in Contemporary Palau: Policy Implications of Globalization in the Pacific" (ed. in) *The Contemporary Pacific*, vol. 12, No. 2, (pp. 319-348) Fall 2000.

Week 15: Project Presentations begins

Week 16: Project Presentations Con't

Course Evaluation

Research Paper Due

The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes. The students will be fully informed about the changes in due time.