

**Political Science 480/380: Scope of Political Science  
Spring Semester 2014 \* Monday 3:30-6:00 \* Instructor: James Johnson**

**Office: 312 Harkness Hall \* 275-0622 \***



## **Week One ~ (January 19<sup>th</sup>) ~ No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

Because this reprieve tends to be a totally superficial gesture - a way for Americans to congratulate themselves on how far we've progressed toward racial justice by celebrating a sanitized version of Dr. King – I am assigning two texts that might complicate your view of what he advocated. His remarks offer an indication of how scant our political progress actually has been.

(1) “A Time to Break Silence” (1967)

[http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/kingweb/publications/speeches/Beyond\\_Vietnam.pdf](http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/kingweb/publications/speeches/Beyond_Vietnam.pdf)

(2) “Address at Mass meeting at the Bishop Charles Mason Temple – Memphis” (1968)

<http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/primarydocuments/680318-000.pdf>

These speeches are not “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” “I Have a Dream,” or “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” – each a stirring statement of personal commitment and solidarity. These two speeches are less familiar and call not just for the extension of civil and political rights, but for fundamental political and economic transformation. In other words, they demand peace and social justice, accomplished by radical means. One could argue that demanding civil rights got Dr. King beaten and jailed, but demanding peace and economic justice got him killed.

## **Week Two ~ What is Scientific Explanation? (January 26<sup>th</sup>)**

\* Daniel Little. 1991. *Varieties of Social Explanation*. Westview Press. Chapters 1, 11.  
Larry Laudan. 1981. “A Problem Solving Approach to Scientific Progress.” In *Scientific Revolutions*. Ed. I. Hacking. Oxford.

**Week Four ~ Rational Choice I (February 19**

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## **Week Eleven ~ Data, Measurement and Conceptualization (March 30<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Second Assignment Distributed**

- \* Geraldo Munck. 2009. *Measuring Democracy*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Nancy Cartwright and Rosa Runhardt. 2015. "Measurement." In *Philosophy of Social Science: A New Introduction*. Edited by Nancy Cartwright & Eleanora Montuschi. Oxford University Press.
- Gary Goertz. 2008. "Concepts, Theories & Numbers." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Ed. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, et. al. Oxford University Press., pp. 97-118.
- David Collier and Robert Adcock 1999. "Democracy and Dichotomies," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2:537-565.
- Michael Coppedge and John Gerring, et. al. 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach," *Perspectives on Politics* 9:247-67.
- Hein Goemans, et. al. 2009. "Introducing Archigos: A Data Set of Political Leaders" *Journal of Peace Research* 46: 269-283.

## **Week Twelve ~ Rational Choice II (April 6<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Second Assignment Due**

- \* Michael Taylor. 1987. *The Possibility of Cooperation*. Cambridge.
- Randall Calvert. 1992. "Leadership and Its Basis in Problems of Social Coordination," *International Political Science Review* 13:7-24.
- \* Thomas Schelling. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Harvard.
- Robert Sugden & Ignacio Zamarron. 2006. "Finding the Key: The Riddle of Focal Points," *Journal of Economic Psychology*

