

**Political Science 380/480: Scope of Political Science
Spring Semester 2012 * Monday 4:50-7:30 * Instructor: James Johnson**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:30 & by Appointment**

This course is required of all first year students

In there is a famous scene where King Arthur engages in heated debate over the notion of sovereignty with a handful of very contentious, muddy peasants. The peasants announce that they belong to an “autonomous collective,” a “self-governing anarcho-syndicalist commune” and so have little regard for the pretenses of centralized monarchical authority. I find their arguments persuasive. (See: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Xd_zkMEgI if you are unfamiliar with this canonical argument.) This course will op

Richard Fenno. 1986. "Observation, Context, and Sequence,"
80:3-16.

Lisa Wedeen. 2010. "Reflections on Ethnographic Work in Political Science,"
13:255-72.

Charles Taylor. 1985.

- Little, . Chapter 8.
 * William Berry and Mitchell Sanders. 2000. . Westview.
 * Adam Przeworski, et al. 2000. . Cambridge.
 Hoover, Kevin. 1990. "The Logic of Causal Inference," 6:207-34.
 Christopher Achen. 2002. "Toward a New Political Methodology,"
 5:423-50.

Week Ten – Data, Measurement and Conceptualization (March 26th)

- * Geraldo Munck. 2009. . Johns Hopkins University Press.
 Gary Goertz. 2008. "Concepts, Theories & Numbers." In
 . Ed. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, . Oxford University Press., pp. 97-118.
 David Collier and Robert Adcock 1999. "Democracy and Dichotomies"
 2:537-565.
 Michael Coppedge and John Gerring, . 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy:
 A New Approach,"
 Hein Goemans, . 2009. "Introducing Archigos: A Data Set of Political Leaders"
 46: 269-283.
 Gretchen Helmke. "Interbranch Conflict in Latin America" (unpublished manuscript).

Week Eleven – Rational Choice II (April 2nd)

- * Michael Taylor. 1987. . Cambridge.
 Randall Calvert. 1992. "Leadership and Its Basis in Problems of Social Coordination,"
 13:7-24.
 * Thomas Schelling. 1960. Harvard.
 Robert Sugden & Ignacio Zamarron. 2006. "Finding the Key: The Riddle of Focal Points,"
 27:609-21.
 Clarke, Kevin and David Primo. 2007. "Modernizing Political Science: A Model-Based
 Approach," 5:741-53.
 Ariel Rubinstein. 1991. "Comments on the Interpretation of Game Theory,"
 59:909-24.
 Thomas Schelling. 1978. . Norton. Ch. 4,7.
 Robert Sugden. 2000. "Credible Worlds: The Status of Theoretical Models in Economics,"
 7:1-31.

Week Twelve - Pathological Debates (April 9th)

- * Donald Green and Ian Shapiro. 1994. . Yale.
 Karl Popper. 1968. "The Rationality Assumption." In . Ed. David Miller.
 Princeton.

- Gary Cox. 1999. "The Empirical Content of Rational Choice Theory: A Reply to Green and Shapiro." 11:147-69.
- Kevin Clarke. 2007. "The Necessity of Being Comparative: Theory Confirmation in Quantitative Political Science." 40:7.
- Curtis Signorino. 1999. "Strategic Interaction and the Statistical Analysis of International Conflict," 93:279-98.
- James Johnson. 2010. "What Rationality Assumption? Or, How "Positive Political Theory" Rests on a Mistake," 58:282-99.

Week Thirteen - Theories of Institutions and How We Assess Them (April 16th)

- * Jack Knight. 1991. . Cambridge. 1:131-47.
- Kenneth Shepsle. 1989. "Studying Institutions," 1:131-47.
- Douglas North. 1990. "A Transaction Cost Theory of Politics" 2:355-67.
- Randall Calvert. 1995. "Rational Actors, Equilibrium and Social Institutions." In . Ed. J. Knight and I. Sened. University of Michigan.
- Jack Knight. 1995. "Models, Interpretations and Theories: Constructing Explanations of Institutional Emergence and Change." In Ed. J. Knight and I. Sened. University of Michigan.
- Lorene Allio et al. 1997. "Post-communist Privatization as a Test of Theories of Institutional Change." In . Ed. David Weimer. Cambridge.
- Jack Knight and Douglass North. 1997. "Explaining the Complexity of Institutional Change." In . Ed. David Weimer. Cambridge.

Week Fourteen - Power (April 23rd)

- * Keith Dowding. 1996. . Minnesota.
- Adam Przeworski and Michael Wallerstein. 1988. "The Structural Dependence of the State on Capital," 82:11-29.
- Brian Barry, 2002. "Capitalists Rule OK? Some Puzzles about Power," 1:155-84.
- Keith Dowding. 2003. "Resources, Power & Systematic Luck," 2:305-22.
- Brian Barry. 2003. "Capitalists Rule, OK? A Commentary on Keith Dowding," 2:323-41.

Week Fifteen - Social Constructionism (April 30th)

Second Assignment Distributed.

- * Ian Hacking. 1999. Harvard.
- Alexander Wendt. 1992. "Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics." . 46:391-425.
- Alexander Wendt. 1998. "Constitution and Causation in International Relations," 24:101-17.

