Political Science

The Nature of the Discipline
and
Opportunities for Growth
Organization

• Definitions

• Examples

• Philosophy and Science

• Opportunities for Jobs & Growth
Politics: Definitions

• the socialization of conflict
• the pursuit of consensus
• the way that we publicly organize our lives
• the art and science of government
Politics: The Modern Definition

- the pursuit and exercise of political power in order to make policy and law for a specific jurisdiction and population
- at the local to the international levels
- a variety of actors
- a variety of institutions
War as an Extension of Politics

Armed guards protect Rebwar Abdullah, 2nd right, an official from the Kurdish Democratic Party, while he visits the site of a car bomb blast in the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007. Several car bombs struck the oil-rich Kirkuk in a two-hour span on Saturday, killing at least two people and wounding 30, police said. (AP Photo)

Photo Credit: AP Photo
Diplomacy and Politics

Cheney Warns Pakistan to Act on Terror

Vice President Cheney’s trip was shrouded in secrecy, and he was on the ground for only a few hours, sharing a private lunch with Gen. Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan at his palace.

By DAVID E. SANGER and MARK MAZZETTI
Published: February 26, 2007
Maher Arar arriving at the Ottawa airport on Sunday morning from his home in British Columbia.
President Bush has requested $63 million in fiscal 2007 for democracy promotion in Iraq.

Photo Credit: Pool Photo
Related Article: Democracy in Iraq Not A Priority in U.S. Budget - page 801
The Legislature

Democrats Push for Troop Cuts Within Months

Senator Harry Reid, left, the incoming Senate majority leader, and Joshua B. Bolten, the White House chief of staff, bumped into each other in a backstage corridor before their television appearances Sunday.

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG and MARK MAZZETTI
Published: November 13, 2006
The Supreme Court

Roberts Is at Court's Helm, but He Isn't Yet in Control

In Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.'s first term, the Supreme Court was scene to both momentous decisions and battles postponed.

By LINDA GREENHOUSE
Published: July 2, 2006
The Politics of Appointment

Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito walks with former Indiana Sen. Dan Coats after meeting with Sen. Evan Bayh yesterday in Washington DC. (Getty Images)
The Constitution & the Environment

Justices Say E.P.A. Has Power to Act on Harmful Gases

Car and truck tailpipe emissions account for about one-fourth of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions.

By LINDA GREENHOUSE
Published: April 3, 2007
Citizens and Policy

Thousands in New York March Against Iraq War

The marchers at Saturday's rally included Cindy Sheehan; the Rev. Al Sharpton; the actress Susan Sarandon; Roger Toussaint, the president of the transit workers' union; and Bill Perkins, a former City Council member who is running for an open seat in the State Senate.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Published: April 29, 2006
Policymakers in the Senate

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) will be the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Photo Credit: By Toby Talbot -- Associated Press
Related Article: Leahy Seeks Documents on Detention, page A07
Policymakers in the House

House_minority_leader_Nancy_Pelosi,_D-Calif.,_arrives_on_Capitol_Hill_Nov._8,_2006,_as_she_heads_towards_her_first_news_conference_since_Election_Day_and_theDemocrats’_rise_to_power_in_both_houses_of_Congress.

Photo_Credit: AP
Related_Article: Pelosi_Endorses_Murtha_as_Next_Majority_Leader, page A01
Domestic Policy & Katrina

In 2004, President Bush strolled through a Florida neighborhood hit by Hurricane Charley with FEMA Director Michael Brown, left, and Rep. Mark Foley. Two of the above men no longer have their titles.

Photo Credit: By Stephen Hayford -- Associated Press
Technology

Rural Areas Left in Slow Lane of High-Speed Data Highway

Kenn Stransky, left; Bill Johnson; Jean Louis Masson; and his wife, Louise-Helene Masson, use a diner in Canaan, Vt., as a meeting hall to trade tidbits that in a more wired world might end up in e-mail messages.

By KEN BELSON
Published: September 28, 2006
The Discipline of Political Science

• The Traditional Approach

• The Modern Approach
The Traditional Approach

• Idealism and metaphysics

• The Western Intellectual Heritage

• The contributions of Greece and Rome
Greece

- Greece
  - The polis: the city-state
  - Herodotus: father of international politics
  - Socrates, Plato & Aristotle: political philosophy
Rome

- The republican model
- Law
- Administration
- Military science
The Modern Approach

Science and Empiricism

• Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and David Hume

• Hypothetico-Deductive Model
  – Karl Popper
Hypothetico-Deductive Model

- Observation and Generation of Ideas
- Building a Replicable Model
- Development of Testable Hypothesis
- Systematic Observation
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Testing of Hypothesis
- Drawing of Conclusions
- Further Testing by Oneself and Others
Disciplinary Connections

• Among the questions and methods social scientists share, at least at DSU, are:
  
  – SSC 469: Quantitative Analysis for the Social Sciences
  – SSC 470: Research Methods for the Social Sciences
Opportunities I

• Jobs
  – Community organizing and service
  – Administration at the local, county & state levels
    • State Civil Service
    • Federal Civil Service
Opportunities II

• Jobs
  – State Civil Service
  – Federal Civil Service
Opportunities III

• Preparation for Professional Work

– At the M.A. level:
  • Public Administration
  • Business-Government liaison in any organization
  • Health administration
  • Revenue administration
  • Inventory and supply administration
Opportunities IV

• Preparation for Professional Work
  – At the Ph.D. level:
    – All of the previous categories in the area of policymaking at the state and federal levels
    – Research and development
    – Academic career
Opportunities V

• Law School

  – Graduates from DSU: the institution at Oxford, Mississippi College School of Law, the University of Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, L.S.U., William & Mary, Georgetown, and Vanderbilt.
  – Queen’s University, Belfast, U.K.
Our Students

• Josh Manley – Aide to the Senate Transportation Committee
• Melanie Simpson – M.A. in policy studies, Univ. of Arkansas, analyst in the Arkansas Health Department
• Cindy Parson – Vanderbilt Law School, partner in the second largest firm in Nashville, TN
Our Students

• Michael Randle – M.A. from DSU, community organizer in Horn Lake, MS
• John Cox – Law degree at Oxford, practices in Cleveland, magistrate in Municipal Court
• Arnold Lee – Law degree from Oxford, practices in Mound Bayou
Delta Council Internship

• Spring Semester in Sen. Cochran’s Office
  – Melanie Simpson
  – Ryan Betz
Political Science & the Humanities

Human beings and the community

• Citizens as contributors to the lives of their fellow human beings

• The Good Society

• Informed Judgment and Thoughtful Choice as public acts in a democracy