

- I. **Politics:** what is it?
 - A. Definitions:
 1. **Shively:** the use of power to make choices for a group of people
 2. **Lowery:** the process of conflict resolution
 3. Others
 - a. David **Easton:** the authoritative allocation of values
 - b. Harold **Lasswell:** who gets what, when, and how
 - B. Two defining characteristics:
 1. Attempting to resolve conflicts (making **choices** for a group of people)
 2. Through the use of **power**
- II. Politics as the making of common (collective) decisions (**public choice**)
 - A. Politics can occur in any group:
 1. **Public sector** groups: any level of governmental organization – local, regional, state, national, international
 2. **Private sector** groups: any type of non-governmental organization (NGO) – a family, business, church, etc.
 - B. These two sectors often interact in complex ways
- III. Politics as an exercise of **power**
 - A. Definition:
 1. **Shively:** the ability of one person to cause another person to do what the first persons wishes, by whatever means
 2. **Lowery:** the ability of a person or organization to achieve desired ends
 - B. Sources of power (which is most efficient?)
 1. **Force:** the threat or imposition of sanctions
 - a. Physical
 - b. Economic
 - c. Social
 2. **Persuasion:** appeal to self-interest
 3. **Authority:** appeal to legitimacy
 - C. **Implicit** (hidden or covert) **power** compared to **manifest** (open or overt) **power**
 1. **Manifest power** (the first two “faces of power”)
 - a. **Power elites** – Karl Marx, C. Wright Mills, & Floyd Hunter
 - b. **Pluralist elites** – Robert Dahl
 2. **Implicit (hidden) power**
 - a. **Agenda setters** (the 3rd face of power) – Antonio Gramsci, Steven Lukes, Peter Bachrach & Morton Baratz
 - b. **Opinion manipulators** – the hidden persuaders (the 4th face of power) – Karl Marx, Vance Packard, Peter Digeser
 - D. An example of the difficulty of analyzing (local, community) power
 1. Reputational power (Hunter)
 2. Observed power (Dahl)
 3. Agenda-setting power (Bachrach & Morton)
 4. Opinion manipulator power (Marx, et al.)
 - E. Politics and power
 1. All politics based on some sort of power
 2. Sources of power are highly varied (see IV. B.)

- IV. Politics as the exercise of choice
 - A. Public **choice**: bargaining and compromise emphasized (e.g., Dahl)
 - B. Elite **power**: manipulation & coercion emphasized (e.g., Marx)
 - C. Both processes are often involved in real-world examples of politics

- V. Politics of the state (see III.)
 - A. **State**: a political unit having territory with stable boundaries, population, and sovereignty over its internal and external affairs
 - B. **Sovereignty**: the final say in politics (the legal capacity of a state to maintain control of its own affairs)
 - C. **Nation**: a group of people sharing a common **culture** (and often language) but not necessarily exercising **sovereignty** (control of a state)

- VI. Political science
 - A. Interpretive/qualitative (**traditionalist**)
 - B. **Behavioralist**/quantitative
 - C. Theory
 - 1. Empirical
 - 2. Normative
 - D. What political scientists study – major **subfields** of the discipline:
 - 1. American politics and government
 - 2. Comparative politics
 - 3. International relations
 - 4. Political theory and methods (normative & empirical)

- VII. The pleasures of politics
 - A. Intellectual
 - B. Emotional