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