

GOVT1641 FINALS NOTES – INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS

<p>POLITICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social phenomenon + the consequences of human being living together. • Ideology (Andrew Heywood): it is more or less coherent set of ideas that provides the basis for organised political action, whether this is intended to preserve, modify or overthrow the existing system of power. (give account of world orders and world views; explaining how political change could happen) • Ideas of ruling class, embody or articulate class or social interests, situate the individual within a social context and generate a sense of collective belonging • Advance the model of the desired future (lenses to understand the world & explain it) • Shape material life; conditions and create by the virtue of historical context • Structure political understanding and set goals and inspire activism (everyone has own beliefs and set the rules) • Act as a form of social elements (different society in groups) <p><u>Political and Power: multi-dimensional in public and private life (everywhere)</u> *Hannah Arendt – has no limitation in human nature, in the bodily existences of man, like strength. Its only limitation is the existences of other people, but the limitation is not accidental because human power corresponds to the condition of plurality to begin with. *Michael Foucault – discipline increases the forces of the body and diminishes these same forces (in political terms of obedience). It dissociates power from the body and turns it into an ‘aptitude’ which it seeks to increase. While it reverses the course of the energy, the power might result from it, and turn it into a relationship of strict subjection.</p> <p><u>Role of the State:</u> make and enforce the authoritative rules, take and redistribute resources, provide public goods, deal with other states...</p> <p><u>Political Ideology Elements:</u> Critique of existing order (in form of world view), vision of future society (advance model of desired future and good society – normative element), theory of political change in explaining how political change can/should be brought about (frm A to B)</p>
<p>LIBERALISM (dominant western political thoughts and ideas; mechanism of oppression; ongoing tension in contemporary society)</p>	<p><u>Framework for Liberal Democracy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy: voting, elections, free press, free to stand in election, rule of law, lack of discrimination, unbiased courts, government respond to people, protection of minorities, freedom of religion, freedom to do what we want, freedom of speech • Liberal Democracy: emphasis on individuals, assume rational and self-maximising behaviour, freedom and the rule of law, limited role for government, strong civil society, separation of powers, political and normative thinking that influences institutional design, importance of constitution • The Australian Constitution: fundamental component of liberal democracy, establishing the rule of the game btn people and govt, it places a legal limit on the role of gov and establish the fundamental institutions of the political system (written & unwritten constitution – conventions) • Preamble to the Australian Constitution: self-governing colonies, no violence or civil war to establish nation, framers of the constitution wanted to maintain status quo; maintain power bases, democratic variations, omissions and inconsistencies • Constitution divides up powers between the States and the Commonwealth government (ss.51, 109) • Liberty, Tolerance, Individualism and Equality (the primary value in the liberal creed) • Inequality is necessary to provide incentives (focus on individual stems that they are rational) • Citizen’s Rights: engage in peace political conflict without fear of reprisals that free competition should result on election day in a government formed by those wining most popular support • Freedom of assembly and association, right to equal protection of the law, right to due process of law and fair trial and property rights to land, goods and money • Set of political beliefs that have the underlying foundations in structural basis for government and democracy in Australia • Government by the people (elections), majorities and minorities should be taken into account • Adam Smith: ‘the only fair is laissez-faire’ – we know what’s best! • Social liberalism (degree of application): greater role for gov in protecting individuals, making them to achieve full capacity • Economic liberalism: emphasis the limited role of gov in economic sphere • Liberal – liberal party of Australia • Liberal Party: represented and commitment to national interests (being apparent) – addressing practical needs (freedom has more weight than equality) • Conservative elements of the liberal tradition: importance of laws, rules and conventions