

## GOVT1641- Sample Notes

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Week 1:

Republican view of politics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public space,</li><li>- Citizenship,</li><li>- Participation,</li><li>- Collective action,</li><li>- Arguments over 'the good'</li></ul>
Government and governance:	Thomas Hobbes judged that government provides us with protection from the harm that we would otherwise inflict on each other in our quest for gain and glory.
Three aspects of politics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- It is a collective activity, occurring between and among people. A lone castaway on a desert island could not engage in politics, but if there were two castaways on the same island, they could have a political relationship</li><li>- It involves making decisions on matters affecting two or more people, typically to decide on a course of action, or to resolve disagreements</li><li>- Once reached, political decisions become authoritative policy for the group, binding and committing its members</li></ul>
Luke's three dimensions of power:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Power should be judged by examining whose views prevail when the actors involved possess conflicting views on what should be done</li><li>- Capacity to keep issues off the political agenda</li><li>- Power is extended to cover the formation, rather than merely the expression, of preferences</li></ul> <p>The implication of these examples is that the most efficient form of power is to shape people's information and preferences, thus preventing the first and second dimensions from coming into play</p>
The state:	Provides the legal or formal mandate for the work of governments, allowing them to

	<p>utilise the authority inherent in the state. The state is also intimately related to two concepts that lie at the heart of our understanding of government and politics: authority and legitimacy.</p>
Ideology:	<p>A system of connected beliefs, a shared view of the world, or a blueprint for how politics, economies and society should be structured. An ideology is today understood as any system of thought expressing a view on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human nature</li> <li>- The proper organisation of, and relationship between, state and society</li> <li>- The individual's position within this prescribed order</li> </ul>
Three world system:	<p>A political typology that divided the world along ideological lines, with states labelled according to the side they took in the Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First world: wealthy, democratic industrialised states, most of which were partners in the Western alliance against communism</li> <li>- Second world: communist systems, including most of those states ranged against the Western alliance</li> <li>- Third world: poorer, less democratic, and less developed status, some of which took sides in the Cold war, but some of which did not</li> </ul>
Political economy:	<p>Relationship between political activity and economic performance. Good government is more likely to produce a successful economy, and a bad government less so; this is measured through economic output in the form of GNI, which refers to the total domestic and foreign output by the residents of a country in a given year</p>