

## ***THE FUTURE OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS***

Pols 673

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Department of Political Science  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

This course will focus on the design of new systems of governance and is intended especially for students in the Alternative Futures MA option within the Department of Political Science. Other students are most heartily welcome. The course will be in three major parts.

**THE FIRST PART**, for which the instructor will be primarily (but not exclusively) responsible for leading class discussion, will begin with a review of some of the basic ideas about political futures studies and the design of governance systems. We will argue that "structure matters": that certain structures lead to specific behavior so that if different behavior is preferred, different structures are required. We will problematize the dominant mode of thinking about designing governance systems, called "constitutionalism", in light of what a "quantum" political design, or one based on evolutionary systems theory, might suggest instead. This will be followed by a consideration of other non-dominant governance design cosmologies.

**THE SECOND PART:** Then we will consider six of the many complaints levied against all existing governments: that they are bureaucratic, placing the convenience of the governors over the needs of the governed; that they too nationalistic, privileging the nation-state over both smaller and larger units; that they are undemocratic, thwarting participation of some, while favoring other, groups and individuals; that they are murderous, both using and causing killing; that they are patriarchal, insisting on a gender dichotomy that privileges men and violent masculinity, while marginalizing or oppressing other preferences; and that they are unfuturistic, severely discounting the needs and wants of future generations while favoring some people and groups in the present. Since a goal of this class is to invent and design systems that overcome these and other undesirable features, we will consider several examples of governance designs that are intended to address one or more of the major complaints

By the third meeting of the class (January 30) each member of the class will identify one of the six "complaints" about which she wishes to become expert. Persons choosing the same "complaint" will then form teams. These individuals or teams will be responsible for (1) leading the discussion about the complaint and solutions to it on the night it is scheduled for class consideration, (2) researching and explaining to the rest of the class other governance designs that attempt to solve the complaint; (3) and in general, serving as expert consultants to the rest of the class on this matter. However, all students are expected to include their solutions to all six complaints (plus any others of particular concern to them) in their final paper.

**THE THIRD PART**, for which the members of the course will be responsible, individually and collectively, will focus on governance designs in any area of each student's choosing. However, students are expected in their governance design to present their solutions to the "major complaints" plus any other concerns they may have. Moreover, *students are especially encouraged to develop designs that are not based upon traditional Western structures and/or philosophical assumptions*. For example, you might consider developing Hawaiian or other indigenous, Confucian, Islamic, Taoist, or Buddhist political designs; and/or those made on the basis of feminist, Gaian, or Green values; and/or on the assumptions of evolutionary, biological, self-organizing, quantum, catastrophe, chaos, or string theories. As will become clearer during class readings and discussion, the focus of *your design must be on forms and structures that encourage preferred behavior in accordance with your values*, and not on the simple assertion of your preferred values alone.

1/16 Introduction to the course. Review of the basic concepts and concerns of futures studies

Dator, "The future lies behind!"

Dator, "What futures studies is, and is not"

Sardar, et al, "Colonizing the future"

Dator and Seo, "Korea as a 'Dream Society'"

Duncombe, "Dreaming a New Politics"

Dator, "Strong Nation/Weak State"

Zapka and Dator, "Peak Oil"  
 Dator, "Assuming 'responsibility for your rose'"  
 O'Hara, "Future mind"

1/23 Society as a human invention

Dator, "You as a social inventor"  
 Dator, "Decolonizing the future"  
 Studer, "Behavior contingent design"  
 Michael, "Forecasting & planning in an incoherent context"  
 Arthur, "The logic of invention"

1/30 From Constitutions and "constitutionalism"

Wheeler, "Constitutionalism"  
 Riggs, "Constitutional reform: Some guidelines"  
 Dator, "Structure matters"  
 Dator, "Governance design vs. 'Will'"  
 Hertzberg, "Framed up"  
 Klarreich, "Election Selection"  
 Marckenzie, "Best man lose"  
 Brams, "Science of elections"  
 Marien, "Review of Governance books"  
 Dator, "To vote or not"  
 Dator, "Judicial Blur"  
*Law and new governance in the EU and the US* (Review)  
*Beyond Camelot: Rethinking politics and law in the modern state* (Review)

2/6 Towards quantum politics and evolutionary systems design

Slaton, "Quantum theory and political theory"  
 Dator, "Towards quantum politics"  
 Aerts, "Quantum democracy"  
 Aerts, email on "quantum democracy"  
 Dator, "Chance in dance and politics"  
 "Twelve O'Clock" (poem)  
 "Fugue" (poem)  
 Quantum Cheney  
 Huston, "Which way is up?"  
 Matthew Chalmers, "String Theory"

2/13 Towards new political cosmologies

Mushakoji, "Post-modern cultural development in East Asia"  
 Madsen, "After liberalism...Confucianism becomes hegemonic..."  
 Sardar, "Islamic state in the post-industrial age"  
 Kanahele, "In search of Hawaiian values"  
 Prince Shotoku, "Constitution"

2/20 Towards future-oriented governance

Toffler, "Future-conscious politics"  
 Kim and Dator, "Future Generations: They are our conscience"  
 Dator, "Governmental foresight"  
 Mika, "Finnish Future Governance"  
 Finnish Futures Committee  
 Tonn, "Court of generations"  
 Pollard and Tonn, "Revisiting the 'Court of Generations'"

2/27 Towards nonkilling governance

Glenn Paige, *Nonkilling Global Political Science*, Download at: [www.globalnonviolence.org](http://www.globalnonviolence.org)

Paige, "Leadership for Nonkilling"  
 Bhanuja, (About Glenn Paige)  
 Paige, "Report on a Nonkilling world"

3/5 Towards gender-blind governance

Coontz, "Good old days?"  
 Arat, "Patriarchy and women in politics"  
 Ferree and Martin, "Feminist organizations"  
 Wheeler and Chin, "Peace and power"  
 Cerroni-Long, "Sexual dimorphism"  
 Johnson, "The new nature vs. nurture"

3/12 Towards direct democracy

Dator, "Technology and political design"  
 Dator, "Will America ever become a democracy?"  
 Dator, "IPAIT"  
 Becker, Teledemocracy Action News + Network <<http://www.auburn.edu/tann>>  
 (NOTE: Not on CD. Please access the website online)  
 Dator, "USociety"  
 Bullinga, "Intelligent government"  
 Rasanen, ""The platform of Aanivalta"

3/19 Towards global/local governance

"What is Global Governance?"  
 Dator, "State of the state"  
 Dator, " On explaining the rise of non-state actors"  
 Deetz, "Democracy in an age of corporate colonization"  
 Tonn, "Non-spatial governance"  
 Ondrejka, "Virtual worlds"  
 Garreau, "Behold the nine nations"  
 Rohter, "Envisioning a Green Hawaii"  
 Verkuil, "Outsourcing Sovereignty"

3/26 **-Spring Vacation**

4/2 Towards public service and caring communities

Dator, "US public administration from laissez-faire to empire"  
 Fainstein, "The political economy of American bureaucracy"  
 Pratt, "The New Public Management"  
 Los Horcones, "Personalized Government"  
 Fehr, "Strong Reciprocity"  
 Glassman, "Mutual Aid"  
 Rodriguez, "Networking Decisionmaking"

4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7--**Student Reports**

5/14 --***Final papers due in Dator's inbox or mailbox( Saunders Hall 640), by 4:15 PM, May 14***

**A Note on Grades.** The primary focus of this class is each student's final governance design project. The in-class presentation of this project is worth 20% of each student's total grade, and the final written report is worth 50%. Regular attendance and team participation is worth 25%. Participation on listserv is 5%.

More detailed guidance about your final political design project will be given during the class.

**Office hours:** Dator's office is Saunders Hall 632. Office hours are usually Monday through Thursday, 1:30-2:45 PM, or by appointment. Phone 956-6601. Please leave messages on my voicemail at this number.

*However, I strongly urge you to use email to discuss things with me instead of, or in addition to, visiting or phoning my office. My email address is **dator@hawaii.edu***

Because of my duties as Director of the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies, I may have to miss a class or two. However, someone will come in to take over any class I miss so please attend and participate in class as usual. Moreover, I will take my iBook with me on most trips and access the listserv and email, so you can and should continue to communicate with me even when I am not physically in Hawaii. However, if my absence from some classes presents any problem to you, please discuss this with me, or please do not take the course.

Since this class only meets once a week, and because a great deal of class material will be presented by you and other students during the class time, it is VERY important that you attend all classes. Please notify me in advance if you do have to miss a class so you may do whatever is possible to make up the work.

**pol673-1 Listserv:** Participation in the class listserv, pol673-1, should be an important part of this class. At least once each week, preferably more frequently, post your comments on pol673-1 concerning the assigned readings, class lectures, and class discussions, and to engage in a discussion with others online.

**Plagiarism** is taking another person's words or ideas without crediting them. Anything cut and pasted from a website without quotation marks around it (and/or without other accepted ways of identifying borrowed material, and indicating its source) is plagiarism. Copying anything from a book or journal without putting quotation marks around it, or the like, and without identifying its source, is plagiarism. Plagiarism is cheating. There is no excuse for it. If anyone turns in anything with plagiarized material in it, that will result in an immediate grade of F for the course.

"Plagiarism usually occurs when students feel overwhelmed--by school, by finances, by illness, by relationship problems, etc. If anything like this happens to you, please let me know. We will work something out that will be a lot more beneficial to you than cheating."

**Note: Modified from Noelani Silva's Syllabus**