I. What is Empirical Political Theory?

II. Four Alternative Axiomatic Foundations for Empirical Political Theory
   A. Political Realism
   B. Positive Political Economy
   C. Marxian (Structural) Political Economy
   D. Political Sociology

III. Contending Approaches Applied to Three Recurring Central Questions
   A. Micro-Behavior: Vote Choice
   B. Conflict and Cooperation: Political Violence
   C. Macro-Outcomes: Institutions

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Readings and Participation. Please come prepared each week to discuss all of the readings. All assigned readings are available on a closed course web-site. The web-site address will be provided in class.

Writing Assignment. You should complete a ten-page paper that represents the first half of a prospectus, sketching the theoretical development that supports an empirical research project. This assignment is described in a separate document. You should present verbally a ten-minute overview of the paper during the tenth-week meeting of the seminar. The paper is due on the Monday of finals week.

Week 1. What is Empirical Political Theory?
Week 2. Political Realism

Week 3. Positive Political Economy

Week 4. Marxian (Structural) Political Economy

Week 5. Political Sociology

Week 6. Micro-Behaviors: Vote Choice

Week 7. Conflict and Cooperation: Political Violence
Samuel P. Huntington. 1996. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order. New York: Simon & Schuster. Chapter 1 §1-2; Chapter 2 §1; and Chapter 6. (In particular, pp. 19-29, 40-5, 125-30.)

Week 8. Macro-Outcomes: Institutions/The Origins of Democracy


Week 10. Presentations of Projects