

POL1101: Introduction to Political Science

Week 04

Syllabus at: <http://bit.ly/1uejHmf>

Midterm Exam Instructions

- The exam will begin at 11:30 and end at 12:45 (5 minutes early).
- Please go to the bathroom before the midterm exam; getting up to leave midway through the exam is distracting to your fellow students who are trying to concentrate.
- The only equipment you need is a writing utensil, and an eraser and a pencil sharpener. Everything else should be zipped up in your bag, which will be placed at your feet.
- Turn your phones off and put them away. There is a clock on the wall to keep track of time. I will provide occasional reminders. You may NOT take out your phones if you finish early. Sorry, it's distracting to your fellow students who are trying to concentrate.
- Please raise your hand if you have a question, we will come to you.
- You must remain seated until the exam is over (11:40). Getting up and leaving early is distracting to those students who prefer to write until the end. In the event that you finish early, I included a few sudokus on the last page to help you pass the time.
- When we say “pens down”, we mean “pens down”. Anyone still writing when we say the exam is over will receive a grade of zero.

Essay Topic

- Drawing on events over the past year (> Sept, 2013). Select a topical political problem/ conflict related to a public good and critically examine it using collective action theory.
Recall that a social science essay must contain
 1. an argument (a thesis statement),
 2. theory and
 3. replicable evidence (peer reviewed sources).

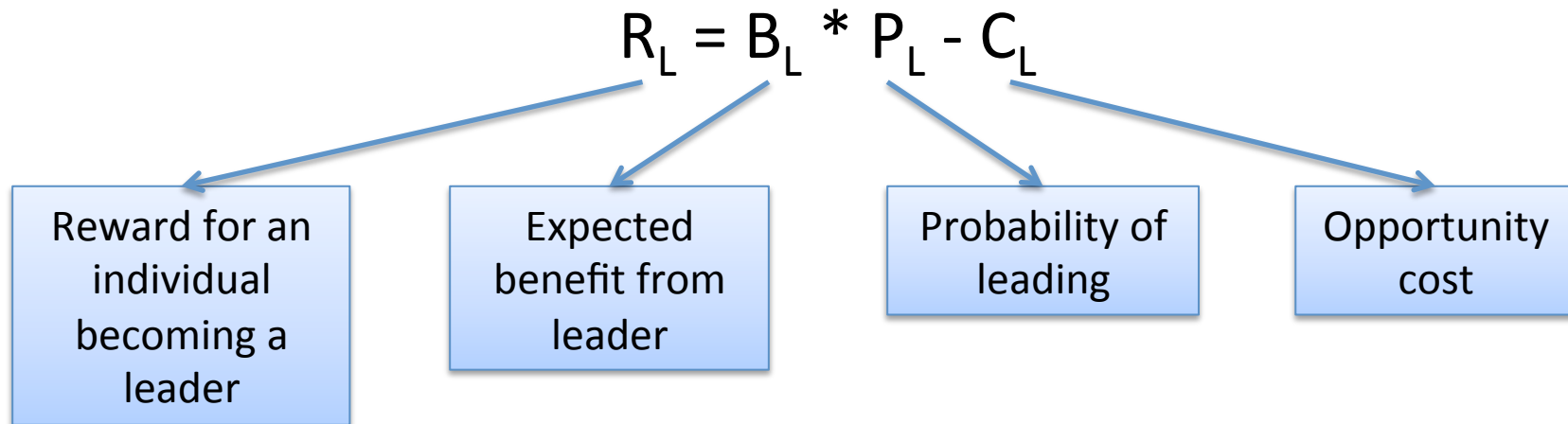
Leaders

- Leaders are those people who are able to coordinate the members of an interest group or community, set up an organization or institutional construction, initiate an action, **and make viable the provision of public goods** in which the group is interested.
- Effective leaders achieve the following aims:
 - Identify public goods
 - Mobilize collective resources
 - Create and reinforce collective trust, the group identify and cohesion to support sustained cooperation

Why do it?

- Leaders have different incentive structures than followers (although they may share similar goals)
 - Want the benefits of the public good
 - Also want power, fame, income, “promotion”
 - Leaders’ “wants” are relative.
 - Justin Trudeau’s “wants” are probably quite different from Stephen Harper’s “wants”.

Leadership Function



- If R_L is positive then trying to become a leader is a good decision; if negative not worth the effort.
- B_L : High identification of common goals of the group
- C_L : Rewarding/profitable alternatives
- P_L : Open and inclusive institutional environments offering likely rewards.



Essential Talents

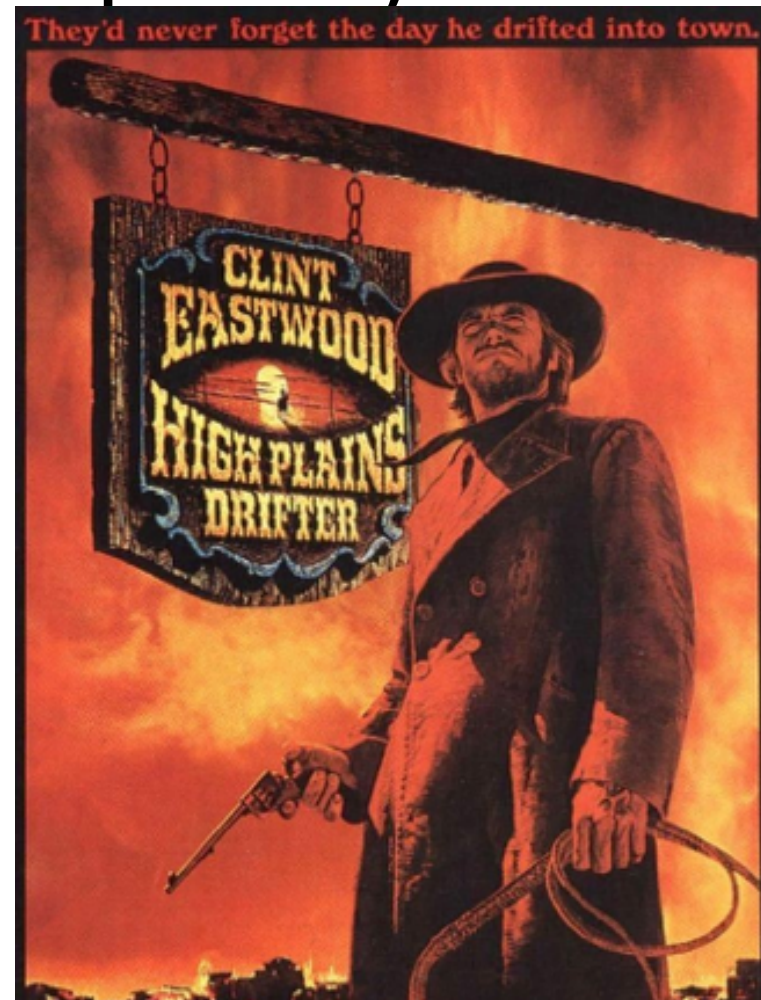
1. Vision
 2. Communication
 3. Organizational capacity
- Charisma

Predictions

- Efficient leaders should emerge:
 - When they are rewarded and given prestige
 - Scarce professional opportunities in the public sector
 - Where circulation of elites is possible and regular
- Opposite is true when conditions do not exist
 - reluctant leaders
 - Higher risk: fewer talents; motivated by inferior alternatives; resign quickly

Political Entrepreneurs (see Laver Chapter 4)

- Contracted to deal with free riders using coercive power over a limited period of time
- Given enough power to coerce individuals, not enough power to coerce the group as a whole
- Political entrepreneur is given a “reward” in exchange for solving collective action problems
- KEY: to be effective, no single member of the group can get rid of the PE



Principals and Agents

- Principal Agent Problem
- Agents (representatives) represent principals (publics)
- Problem: how to do we monitor agents to ensure that they are doing what we want them to?
- Create incentives to keep agents from shirking
 - Positive or negative
 - Create team players through psychological motivation

Agency Loss

- Adverse Selection
 - Least qualified for the job are the most keen to attain it.
- Moral Hazard
 - E.g.. Insurance, act of taking out insurance, makes you less risk averse. Unintended consequences
 - Universal health care
 - MPs? Can't watch them all the time.
 - Fixed election dates? Recall?
- Ideological Shirking
 - Representative has a different policy position than constituency and votes on legislation accordingly
 - In Canada, often controlled by party discipline
 - What about contentious issues (abortion, economic subsidies, Atlantic Accord?)
- Rent Seeking
 - Representatives attempts to influence policy in order to get a reward from the rent-seeking group
 - Bribery
 - Campaign contributions

Rent Seeking

- Rent Seeking often results in policies that the public does not want.
 - Why? Because it's difficult to monitor agents' actions
 - The *Political Class* - a class of government representatives and employees that has an interest in pursuing policies that perpetuate itself.
- Effects
 - Supply elected officials with campaign money
 - Rent seekers may attempt to keep strong challengers from entering the race

Rent Seeking

- Solutions?
 - Term limits (reduces the effect of incumbency)
 - Campaign finance reform
 - Donation constraints
 - Blind accounts