

My name is Marc David Turetzky and I will be your professor for this course. I'm not sure if that's fortunate or unfortunate for you. I'll leave that to you to determine.

I grew up in Del Mar, CA. near the beach and attended Torrey Pines High School without much distinction. I did manage to do well enough grade wise and on the SATs to get in to UCSD. I spent most of my undergrad years surfing, partying, hanging out with friends, working, starting businesses, and so on. I was a pretty lousy, uncommitted student the first few years. That is until I discovered political science. For whatever reason, the subject--especially world politics (conflict, war, terrorism, etc)--was just compelling to me so I declared it as my major. I can understand people who dislike politics, politicians, power and so on, though it has always seemed (and continues to seem) awfully short sighted NOT to pay attention. Those of you who hate politics and therefore don't follow it out of disgust, boredom, ignorance, etc. are simply ceding YOUR power to others.

I'm a political scientist trained at UCSD (BA), SDSU (MA), at Florida State University (MS & PhD), and at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland (Credential in Terrorism Studies; currently in Terrorism Studies MS program). My emphasis is world politics generally, and international conflict and terrorism specifically. My research specializations are terrorism, foreign policy, and the Presidency. I taught for four years at The Florida State University, currently teach part-time at SJSU, and full-time at Gav. I've taught many different types of classes in my years as a professor (American politics, the constitution, political theory, world politics, international conflict, comparative politics, politics of the developing areas, poverty and inequality, model UN, among others). I've taught a wide variety of courses and a wide array of types of students (from community college to master's level students).

In Florida, I worked as a research consultant for the state Supreme Court as well as a private political consultant. I still work as a consultant from time to time on campaigns of interest in this area. I've worked as a pollster and research analyst in San Diego and in Florida.

I am currently working on several research projects (Presidential foreign policy emphasis during the Bush years as well as the development of a worldview for President Obama; a monograph explaining and analyzing modern piracy; a paper entitled "Was the Barbary Wars of 1805-1808 the first war against Islamic Terrorism?"; a paper updating Peter Bergin's seminal "The Iraq Effect"-my update will be titled "The Iraq Effect Revisited"; and a treatment for a book on Presidential foreign policy emphasis from Truman through Bush). Last year I published a chapter (on censorship of peace literature) in the Encyclopedia of Peace (Oxford University of Press).

When I do make time for fun, I like to surf, ride dirt bikes, read, and obviously follow politics. I also like to travel and have travelled all over the world.

I'm often asked, "how do you know what you know" or "what are your sources of information about politics?" My answers are always the same: Watch shows like The News Hour with Jim Leher or the BBC News, listen to NPR (or talk radio for entertainment), read newspapers of record such as the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The

International Herald Tribune, Financial Times (of London-my favorite newspaper other than the WSJ), magazines like The Economist, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, and Time/Newsweek/US News & World Report, academic journals like Political Science Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, and Studies in Terrorism and Violence, as well as books on topics of political interest (in all areas). In other words, it is really about staying on top of information by watching, listening, and reading the best, fairest, most analytical sources of information available.

Politically, I'm analytical and not ideological. I'm a registered independent with a libertarian bent. I dislike and distrust concentrated power because, as Lord Acton elucidated, "power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely." A great scholar named RJ Rummel once said that "the more power a regime has, the more likely people will be killed. This is a major reason for promoting freedom. Concentrated political power is the most dangerous thing on earth." I strongly concur. The pictures below suggest what I think of our two major parties. But I'm a believer in fairness and in empirical analysis. I let the data and truth do the talking, not ideology or party bias. Politics is serious, but I find it highly amusing, especially the antics of many politicians. My advice is this: think for yourself, question those in power, and always ask, "how do I know what I know." Don't be too comfortable about positions. Challenge, probe, dig, search etc for the truth. Demand it from your journalists, professors, and political analysts.

In the end, I think John Adams had it about right when he said, "There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty."