
Fall 2015: Intro International Politics (GOVT204-0102-F15): update

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Subject: Fall 2015: Intro International Politics (GOVT204-0102-F15): update

To:

This is hard because I just now sent you a very important three paragraph email and it failed to send because Blackboard timed out. I will just say this. I went to the hospital Sunday night. Finally a mystery was solved, and it is good news, in that we know what is going on and when it will end. The news was also that the rest of this week will not be easy. That's what they say, at least.

I have been very anxious to return to teach. I felt this morning they were not working fast enough to get me back to the classroom. So I said I am going today. A discussion with one doctor, then two, then seven, then two nurses, there were interns, two people who did not look like they beyond in the hospital, and for the last half hour, it was mainly me against the Chief of Psychiatry, who by the way is a very good debater. When he arrived, I knew they had brought in their biggest gun.

They wanted me to tell you this: I am very sick, I should not leave the hospital, and that's why twelve or so doctors were yelling at me to stay, I could become sicker, I might be incoherent, and lots of other stuff. I am promised them I would write you this because they are worried you will be upset or won't like me or I'll lose credibility or something like that. They really do not understand W&M students.

Just so you are prepared, I am very sick, and I believe I do not look good, because everyone agrees on that. But we finally got the right diagnosis yesterday; things will be fine in the long term; and things are highly unpredictable and unpleasant in the short term. Don't be alarmed. I am fine. Sometimes doctors overreact, especially in groups. Also, doctors do not understand universities.

They had a long argument with 32 indisputable premises and an ironclad conclusion. The conclusion was: you should by all means stay. I said I had no argument at all. Just a decision. It was: I'm going. I want to teach. Two lecture classes, one seminar, and I'll be back at the hospital at 6. Seems reasonable enough.

It really was a heated argument. Everyone was mad but for different reasons. They would say, the paralysis you had on Monday and Tuesday, what if it appears? How will you get to campus if you can't drive? I said: I will take I-64. I won't get lost.

It was like that. Everything they said made sense. I do not remember saying anything that made sense. And I left. I will be late for the 1pm class. When one asked me whether I even had a lecture, I said of course not, there is not even a topic, and the students know that because they don't have a reading. And then I yelled at them more about why they did not understand that it was maybe a little important that I had to go to the hospital on Sunday before posting the syllabus. I tell them: I need to get this class going. Today. And as I was walking out the door two of them were yelling things like, "but our point is you are not well enough to do that" and things like that. My point is, I do not care if I am not well enough to do that, or too incoherent to do that, or I might blackout or whatever, I am so sick of this that I am driving to campus down I-64 whether or not I can drive and we are getting class going, whatever that means.

There were five or six doctors who had not had a chance to yell at me before I left, and I was polite so I let them. And now I will be late. And they were talking about me like I'm a problem? I'm still mad and I'm thinking all of them are too.

I might be as late as 1:30 to the first class. See you very soon.

Prof Dessler