

COURSE CODE: HDS 117

COURSE TITLE: NIGERIA GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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TOPIC: WHAT IS GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Simply put, politics in a general context is the act or science of government or governing, especially the governing of political entity such as nation state and the administration and control of its internal and external affairs. It is the method and tactics involved in the management of a state, or government. It could also be seen as the intrigue or maneuvering within a political unit, group or organization in order to gain control or power over a geo-political space.

Politics as a subject matter embraces government and use of diplomacy as an act of practice, or study of the act and science of forming, directing, negotiating and administrating of state corporations and other political entities. In other words it is the complex nexus or aggregate of relationship of people in a given society, especially those relationships involving authority or power.

In the Same vein, politics could be defined as the functions of government as distinguished from the military. It is a shrewd practice or profession of conducting and mainstreaming the political destiny of nation states as opposed to the military regime. It is the use of strategy or intrigue in obtaining power control, or organizational entity in both local and international sphere.

Government; - Government may be defined as an agency or a machinery through which the will of the state is formulated, expressed and attained. It is the body vested with the power and authority for maintaining security, peace and stability by making and enforcing conventional and fundamental laws in a given society or states. Through the formation and implementation of policies in the state, government as a process or act of governing regulates the activities of the citizens and at the same time steers the affairs of the state.

If there is no such agency or a body to regulate people's activities, the society will degenerate to what Thomas Hobbes called "primitive society" where life was solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.' In order to prevent confusion and disorder in a society, people will have to surrender their natural right or individual self-government to a body or an agency of the state called government.

#### Reading list

J. U. Anyaele, Comprehensive Government, (Lagos; A. Johnson Publication Ltd, 2005)

F. Adigwe, Essential of Government for West Africa, (Ibadan: Oxford University Press, 1974)