

Syllabus for Political Science 3000: Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2017

(Last updated on January 6, 2017)

Instructor:	Sean Ingham	Office:	407, BoA building (downtown)
Instructor email:	ingham@uga.edu	Website:	elcnew.uga.edu
Office phone:	542-5925		
Office hours:	By appointment		

Course description

This course is an introduction to political theory. We will study some of the most influential texts in the Western canon, from Plato's *Republic* to Marx's *Communist Manifesto*. We'll use these readings to think about basic and important political questions, many of which, in one form or another, remain controversial. What is the best form of government? What are the arguments for and against democracy? Is the institution of private property legitimate? How should we think about the meaning and value of freedom?

Readings and website

The schedule of readings can be found below. It specifies what should be read before each lecture. All readings are included in the course packet from Bel Jean Copy-Print Center.

The material is often dense, so one must read each text with care. **Doing so requires reading difficult passages multiple times and sometimes reading the entire text more than once.** There are reading questions for each assigned reading on the website, and there will be regular quizzes based on the reading questions. Always bring a copy of the assigned reading to lecture because we will go over difficult passages together in class.

The URL for the course website is <http://elc.uga.edu/>. The syllabus, the schedule of reading assignments, and reading questions are posted on the website.

Students must be able to receive email from the website and should check this account regularly. All course-related email will be sent via the website.

Course requirements and grading

The grade is based on participation, quizzes, two midterm exams, a cumulative final exam, and three papers. All graded assignments/course activity total to 500 points, allocated as follows:

- **Participation.** 50 points. Students are expected to participate in class. Full participation requires asking questions about what one didn't understand in the reading—this presupposes that one has done the reading—and volunteering answers to questions posed to the class.

- **Quizzes.** 50 points. Quizzes will be administered over the eLC platform. Students are expected to complete the quizzes on their own.
- **First midterm.** 75 points. The first midterm is on February 13. It covers Athenian democracy, Plato, and Aristotle.
- **Second midterm.** 75 points. The second midterm is March 29. It covers Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau.
- **Final cumulative exam.** 100 points. The final exam is cumulative, but with a special emphasis on the readings assigned after the second midterm. The date of the final exam can be found on the Registrar's website.
- **Papers.** 150 points. There are two papers. The first is worth 50 points, and the second is worth 100 points. Students will share rough drafts of each essay with peers and be expected to give their peers comments and suggestions on their rough drafts. Specific details of the assignment will be released later in the semester.

A student's fraction of the 500 points will be converted into a final letter grade according to the following (provisional) rule:

90–100% = A or A-,
 80–89% = B-, B, B+,
 70–79% = C-, C, C+,
 60–69% = D,
 ≤ 59% = F.

A more lenient conversion rule may be used if the distribution of numerical grades ends up especially low. The goal is grades consistent with UGA's grading policy: an A is for "excellent" work, a B is for work that is "good" but not excellent, a C is for work that is merely "satisfactory," and "unsatisfactory" work receives a failing grade.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All students at the University of Georgia agree to abide by the following code when they sign the admissions application: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." For more information, check the following link:

<http://honesty.uga.edu>

Reading schedule

- [1] **January 6.** Introduction, no readings assigned.
- [2] **January 9.** Mogens Herman Hansen, *The Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes*, pp. 178–186, 188–189, 205–210.
- [3] **January 11.** Plato's *Republic*, R 327–329d, 336b–344c, 357–362c.¹

¹The pagination preceded by an *R* refers to the pagination of a sixteenth-century edition of Plato by Stephanus. It is standard across various editions of Plato's texts.

[4] **January 13.** No readings assigned.

No class on January 16.

[5] **January 18.** *The Republic*, continued, R 368e–376e, 414–424b, 427d–435b.

[6] **January 20.** *The Republic*, continued, R 439c–457e.

[7] **January 23.** *The Republic*, continued, R 458–466d, 471c–473e, 487b–489c.

[8] **January 25.** *The Republic*, continued, R 543–580c.

[9] **January 27.** Susan Okin, “Plato and the Greek Tradition of Misogyny” in *Women in Western Political Thought* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013).

[10] **January 30.** David Foster Wallace, “Authority and American Usage.”

[11] **February 1.** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, ch. 1–5, 7, 8.

[12] **February 3.** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, ch. 1–7, 13; Book II, ch. 1–5; Book III, ch. 6–8.

[13] **February 6.** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III, ch. 9–13, 17, 18; Book IV, ch. 4, 8, 9; Book VI, ch. 2.

[14] **February 8.** Paul Millet, “Aristotle and Slavery in Athens,” *Greece & Rome* 54(2) (2007): 178–209.

[15] **February 10.** Midterm review session. **First draft of first paper due.**

[16] **February 13. First midterm exam**

[17] **February 15.** Selections from Garner, *Modern American Usage*.

[18] **February 17.** Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 13.

[19] **February 20.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 14, 15, 16.

[20] **February 22.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 17–18.

[21] **February 24.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 19.

[22] **February 27.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 21.

[23] **March 1.** Richard Tuck, *The Sleeping Sovereign: The Invention of Modern Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), ch. 2.

[24] **March 3.** John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: §1–51. **First paper due.**

March 6–10 is spring break.

[25] **March 13.** Locke, *Second Treatise*, §87–99, 119–142.

[26] **March 15.** Locke, *Second Treatise*, §169–176, 220–226. *Optional*: David Armitage, “John Locke, Carolina, and the Two Treatises of Government,” *Political Theory* 32 (2004): 602–627.

[27] **March 17.** Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Intro, Book I chs. 1–6

[28] **March 20.** Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book I, chs. 7–9; Book II, ch. 1–6.

[29] **March 22.** Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book III, ch. 1 (through para. 7), 4, 5, 12–15 .

[30] **March 24.** Richard Tuck, *The Sleeping Sovereign: The Invention of Modern Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), ch. 3.

[31] **March 27.** Review session for second midterm exam. **First draft of second paper due.**

[32] **March 29. Second midterm exam.**

- [33] **March 31.** Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, chs. I, IV.
- [34] **April 3.** J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, ch. 1.
- [35] **April 5.** *On Liberty*, ch. 2.
- [36] **April 7.** Class cancelled.
- [37] **April 10.** Jeremy Waldron, “Mill on Liberty and on the Contagious Diseases Act,” in *J.S. Mill’s Political Thought*, eds. Nadia Urbinati and Alex Zakaras (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- [38] **April 12.** Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, introduction, §§I, II, IV.
- [39] **April 14.** Marx, Preface to *A Critique of Political Economy; Capital*, selections tbd; *Critique of the Gotha Programme*.
- [40] **April 17.** Marx, *The Civil War in France*, excerpt; Danielle Cammack, “Marx, Engels and the Democratic Communist Tradition,” working paper.
- [41] **April 19.** Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, preface and first treatise.
- [42] **April 21.** Nietzsche, *Genealogy*, second and third treatises.
- [43] **April 24.** Brian Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality* (London: Routledge, 2015), selections tbd.
- [44] **April 26.** Review for final exam. **Second paper due.**