

## POLS 3000

Short Session II (July 8-August 2)  
 Baldwin Hall 301 | 11:00 a.m.-1:15 p.m.  
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 Office: Baldwin Hall 304A  
 Office Hours: By appointment

### INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

“But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature?  
 If men were angels, no government would be necessary.”  
 —James Madison, *The Federalist* No. 51

“The supposition of universal venality in human nature is little less an error in political reasoning  
 than the supposition of universal rectitude. The institution of delegated power implies  
 that there is a portion of virtue and honor among mankind,  
 which may be a reasonable foundation of confidence.”  
 —Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist* No. 76

This intensive summer course is an introduction to a selection of foundational texts in the Western tradition of political thought. This course ranges over four periods of thought: ancient (Plato’s *Apology* and *Republic* and St. Augustine’s massive *City of God*), early modern (Machiavelli’s *Prince*), modern (Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*), and contemporary (Hannah Arendt’s “On Violence” and “Lying in Politics”). It is designed for undergraduates who have had no previous exposure to political theory, though students who have studied any of these thinkers will gain from the course. Significant themes and issues that will be raised include human nature, the soul, the meaning of life, happiness, philosophy and politics, justice and injustice, good and evil, virtue and vice, war and peace, hierarchy and equality, the cause of freedom against slavery and tyranny, fate and free will, God and gods, the political role and capabilities of women and workers, truth, opinion, and lies, deception and self-deception, reality and appearances, power and violence, and theories and ideologies. Also, throughout the course, we will try to be attentive to the sinister and beastly view of human nature that (arguably) characterizes the Western tradition: the view that humans are basically social creatures of wicked animal dispositions who will reduce society to anarchy unless they are somehow governed.

## BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

The bookstore sells the six books I will be using in class. I strongly suggest that you purchase these specific editions so you can follow along with me. I am not requiring you to purchase these specific editions; you may use a different edition or translation. But part of your grade depends on *having* these books and *bringing* them to class. **No digital or electronic books of any kind (on your smartphone, kindle, tablet, or computer) will be allowed.**

- Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, trans. G. M. A. Grube, rev. J. M. Cooper (Hackett)
- Plato, *Republic*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, trans. G. M. A. Grube, rev. C. D. C. Reeve (Hackett)
- Augustine, *City of God*, trans. Henry Bettenson (Penguin Classics)
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Peter Constantine (Modern Library)
- Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, edited and with an introduction by Jeffrey C. Isaac (Yale)
- Arendt, *Crisis of the Republic* (Harvest)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

**Course Format:** This is primarily a lecture course, with breaks for questions and discussion. I expect you to come to class on time, regularly, and have your book at hand. Participation is encouraged but not required.

**Readings:** Since this course is book-based, it is essential to keep up with the reading. I've tried to keep the reading to a minimum. The assigned reading should be completed before each session, along with any "microassignments" due that day.

**Book Check:** Always bring the assigned book to class. I will periodically check to see if you brought your book to class. If you don't have your book on one of these random "book check" days, you will be penalized one point on your book grade.

**Assignments and Grading:** Your final grade will be based on four in-class reading quizzes, six microassignments, and your book grade. The reading quizzes will be on the reading for that day and will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

Grades will be assigned by points as follows, for a total of **100 points**:

- 5: *Apology* reading quiz (July 9)
- 5: *Republic* II microassignment (July 10)
- 10: *Republic* VII microassignment (July 15)
- 10: *City of God* reading quiz (July 16)
- 10: *City of God* microassignment (July 22)
- 10: *Prince* reading quiz (July 24)
- 10: *Prince* microassignment (July 25)
- 10: *Communist Manifesto* microassignment (July 30)
- 10: "On Violence" reading quiz (July 31)
- 10: "Lying in Politics" microassignment (August 1)
- 10: Book grade

**Grading scale:** A >93 A- 90-93 B+ 87-90 B 83-87 B- 80-83 C+ 77-80 C 73-77 C- 70-73

**Extra Credit:** You will have two opportunities to earn extra credit. You will earn **two** extra credit points simply by attending class on Thursday, July 25. And in our last class session on Friday, August 2, I will give a ‘factoid’ quiz of about 40 questions that require short answers to some basic matters of ‘fact’ that pertain to the study of the various theorists and texts read in this course. We will grade this quiz together in class. A good score on this quiz will be worth **three** extra points (which may well boost your final grade in the course); but a not so good score will not hurt you.

**Attendance and Late Arrivals:** *Since the July session is very short, I expect you to come to every class.* If you know ahead of time when you will be absent, please let me know when and why. If you are unexpectedly unable to make it to class, please tell me the reason for your absence as soon as you are able to do so. You will not be penalized for arriving late (I assume you have a good reason). But arriving late to class should not become a habit.

**Electronic Etiquette Policy:** The classroom is a learning environment first and foremost, and everyone is responsible for making certain that the classroom remains an environment conducive to learning. It must be kept free from distractions and disruptions by laptops, cell phones, and other electronic modes of communication and entertainment. Therefore, laptop use during class is banned and all phones should be put away. Studies show that students who take notes by hand perform better on quizzes and other assessments of learning than students who take notes on a computer.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** Our classroom environment should be mutually respectful and inclusive of all students. The classroom should be an environment with no discrimination, where everyone is comfortable and at liberty to contribute to, and benefit from, the entire learning experience. Any suggestions to improve class interactions or any concerns should be brought to my attention.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor.

**Academic Honesty:** The University’s Academic Honesty Policy (“A Culture of Honesty,” available at <http://honesty.uga.edu/index.html>) defines scholastic honesty as “the performance of all academic work without cheating, lying, stealing, or receiving assistance from any other person or using any source of information not appropriately authorized or attributed.” Academic honesty is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, will result in disciplinary action.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** If you cheat on a quiz or microassignment your violation will be reported to the Office of Academic Honesty.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course;  
deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

*Class begins, Mon., July 8 – Syllabus Day and Learn Names*

Tue., July 9 – Socrates's Life on Trial

Read *Apology* (on eLC)

***In-class reading quiz***

Wed., July 10 - Socrates's Failure, Plato's Brothers' Challenge, and Plato's Method

Read *Republic* I and II (1-59)

***Microassignment: What view of human nature frames the discussion of justice in Book II?***

Thur., July 11 – The Just City, Work, The Practice of Virtue, and the Noble Falsehood

Read *Republic* III (60-93)

Fri., July 12 – The Tripartite Soul, the Just Man, Women, and Philosophers

Read *Republic* IV and V (94-156)

Mon., July 15 – Philosopher-Rulers, and the Allegory of the Cave

Read *Republic* VI and VII (157-212)

***Microassignment: Give an interpretation of how the cave dwellers are "like us"?***

Tue., July 16 – Introduction to Augustine's Tale of Two Cities

Read *City of God*, Bk. I (all)

***In-class reading quiz***

Wed., July 17 – The Pagan Gods and the Moral Corruption of Rome

Read *City of God*, Bk. II (all, but especially 1-4, 6-7, 11-14, 16-23)

Thur., July 18 – On Roman Politics

Read *City of God*, Bks. III (1, 9-14, 20-21, 31), IV (1-4, 6-8, 12, 15, 18-23, 25, 26, 28-30, 33), and V (1, 8-19, 21, 24-26)

Fri., July 19 – Evil Choice Without a Cause; or, The Privation Theory of Evil

Read *City of God*, Bks. XI (1, 6-9, 13, 15, 17, 19-23), XII (1-3, 6-9, 13, 15-16, 22, 26-28), XIV (11-15, 25-28), XV (21-22), XVIII (1-2, 9, 37, 40-41, 46, 49, 51, 54)

Mon., July 22 – The Social and Political Life of the City of God

Read *City of God*, Bk. XIX (all, but especially 4-8, 12-17, 21, 24-28) and Bk. XXII (22-24, 30)

***Microassignment: Why is earthy peace in the earthly city so difficult to realize and enjoy?***

Tue., July 23 – Reading Day. **No Class.**  
Read *The Prince* (all)

Wed., July 24 – Introduction to Machiavelli  
Read *The Prince* (all)  
***In-class reading quiz***

**\*\*Extra Credit Day\*\*** Thur., July 25 – Machiavelli’s Maxims and Maurizio Viroli’s lecture on Machiavelli  
***Microassignment: Explain what Machiavelli is trying to advise a prince to do with this quotation: “the nobles want to command and oppress the people, but the people do not want to be commanded or oppressed by the nobles” (44).***

Fri., July 26 – Introduction to Karl Marx  
No reading.

Mon., July 29 – Bourgeoisie and Proletariat  
Read *The Communist Manifesto* (all)

Tue., July 30 – Socialists and Communists  
Read *The Communist Manifesto* (all)  
***Microassignment: What is Marx’s criticism of the socialists and the socialist literature?***

Wed., July 31 – On Violence  
Read Arendt, “On Violence” (all)  
***In-class reading quiz***

Thur., Aug. 1 – Lying in Politics  
Read Arendt, “Lying in Politics: Reflections on the Pentagon Papers” (all)  
***Microassignment: What does Arendt have to teach us about the problem and danger of making political decisions, especially decisions about the use of violence, based on “theories” and “ideology”?***

*Class ends*, Fri., Aug. 2 – In-class **\*\*extra credit\*\*** factoid quiz and course evaluations

*Grades due August 5*