

POLS 3000

Fall 2019 | T-R 2:00-3:15 p.m.
 Baldwin Hall 301
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 Office Hours: By appointment

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

“[T]he community that has the most control of all, and encompasses all the others,
 aims both at the good that has the most control of all and does so to the highest degree.
 And this community is the one called a city, the community that is political.”
 —Aristotle, *Politics* I.1

This 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 Aristotle’s *Politics*), early modern (Machiavelli’s *Prince*), modern (Mill’s *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women* and Nietzsche’s *On the Genealogy of Morals*), and contemporary (Arendt’s “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 the state, ruling and being ruled, constitutions and citizenship, justice and injustice, philosophy and politics, nature and human nature, the meaning of life, wealth, the soul, happiness, individuality, political and social tyranny, good and evil, Christianity and Christian morality, the art of war, the will to power, history and genealogy, hierarchy and equality, power, glory, and domination, the cause of freedom against slavery and tyranny, the people, the political role and capabilities of women and workers, truth, opinion, facts, lies, and the imagination, pride and arrogance, deception and self-deception, reality and appearances, and theories and ideologies.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

The bookstore sells and rents the six books I will be using in class. I strongly suggest that you buy or rent these specific editions so you can follow along with me. But I will allow you to use a different edition or translation if you choose to do so. In any case, you must have a physical copy of each of these books because part of your grade depends on bringing your book 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*, 3rd edition, trans. G. M. A. Grube, rev. J. M. Cooper (Hackett)
- Plato, *Republic*, 2nd edition, trans. G. M. A. Grube, rev. C. D. C. Reeve (Hackett)
- Aristotle, *Politics: A New Translation*, trans. C. D. C. Reeve (Hackett)
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Peter Constantine (Modern Library)
- Mill, *On Liberty and other writings*, ed. Stefan Collini (Cambridge)
- Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, ed. and trans. W. Kaufmann (Vintage)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Course format: This is 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.

Reading quizzes: The reading quizzes are short, open book quizzes that are designed to test you on the major issues, concepts, themes, and arguments of the reading. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

Comprehension quizzes: The comprehension quizzes are longer quizzes that are designed to test your comprehension of the material. I will post a study guide for these quizzes on eLC. You will not be allowed to use your books or notes. Like the reading quizzes, they will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

Formal paper assignments: I will give you a topic to address or a question to respond to as well as detailed instructions about the assignment. I expect you to state your point, thesis, or position on the first page, to lay out an argument, and to support your argument by using evidence from the text. You should not submit a book report or a general summary of the text. The purpose of these formal writing assignments is to build reading comprehension skills, give practice in following and formulating analytical arguments, and to improve your writing abilities.

Random book checks: 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 two points on your book grade.

Attendance and Attentiveness: 10 percent of your grade (or 10 points) is based on your attendance and class comportment. If you come to class regularly and are obviously alert and attentive you will receive all 10 points. If you miss several classes, or arrive late regularly, or make it a habit to leave early, or spend time on your phone, or are obviously paying little attention, I reserve the right to penalize your final grade up to 10 points.

Extra credit: You will have two opportunities to earn extra credit. You will earn **two** extra credit points simply by attending class on Tuesday, **October 8**. And in our last class session on Tuesday, **December 3**, I will give a 'factoid' quiz of 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. *If you wish to propose an activity or assignment for extra credit for the entire class, please talk to me. I'm open to your suggestions.*

Assignments and grading:

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

- 5: Reading quiz on Plato's *Apology* reading quiz (Aug. 22)
- 10: Paper on Plato's *Republic* (Sept. 10)
- 10: Comprehension quiz on Aristotle's *Politics* (Sept. 26)
- 15: Paper on Machiavelli's *Prince* (Oct. 10)
- 15: Comprehension quiz on Mill's *On Liberty* (Oct. 24)
- 10: Comprehension quiz on Mill's *Subjection of Women* (Nov. 5)
- 10: Paper on Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Nov. 22)
- 5: Reading quiz on Arendt's "Lying in Politics" (Nov. 22)
- 10: Book grade
- 10: Attendance and attentiveness 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

Attendance and late arrivals: *I expect you to come to every class and to be on time.* 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. If you are in the habit of arriving late then this is not the class for you.

Electronic etiquette policy: The classroom is a learning environment, and everyone is responsible for making certain that the classroom remains an environment conducive to learning. It must be kept free from distractions 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: 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 paper 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, Thur., Aug. 15 – Syllabus

Tue., Aug. 20 – Learn names

Thur., Aug. 22 – The Trial and Death of Socrates
Read Plato's *Apology* (20-42) (on eLC) ****Reading Quiz****

Tue., Aug. 27 – From Socrates's *Elenchus* to Plato's Problems
Read *Republic* I-II (1-59)

Thur., Aug. 29 – Justice in the City
Read *Republic* III (60-93)

Tue., Sept. 3 – Justice in the Soul
Read *Republic* IV (94-121)

Thur., Sept. 5 – Plato's Proposal for Philosopher-Rulers
Read *Republic* V and VI (122-185)

Tue., Sept. 10 – The Allegory of the Cave
Read *Republic* VII (186-212) ****Plato Paper Due****

Thur., Sept. 12 – Introduction to Aristotle's Life and Works
No reading

Tue., Sept. 17 – The Naturalness of the *Polis* or Political Community
Read *Politics* I (2-21)

Thur., Sept. 19 – Ruler and Ruled
Read *Politics* II (22-51)

Tue., Sept. 24 – Citizens and Constitutions (Oligarchy and Democracy)
Read *Politics* III-IV (52-110)

Thur., Sept. 26 - ****Comprehension Quiz****

Tue., Oct. 1 – Introduction to Machiavelli's Life and Political Experiences
Read *The Prince* (start the book)

Thur., Oct. 3 – Reading *The Prince*: Key Themes
Read *The Prince* (finish the book)

Tue., Oct. 8 – Maurizio Viroli's lecture on Machiavelli. No reading. ****Extra Credit Day****

Thur., Oct. 10 – Introduction to J. S. Mill ****Machiavelli Paper Due****
No reading.

Tue., Oct. 15 – The Problem of Social Tyranny
Read *On Liberty*, ch. 1 (5-18)

Thur., Oct. 17 – Truth and the Battlefield of Opinions
Read *On Liberty*, ch. 2 (19-55)

Tue., Oct. 22 – The Importance of Individuality for Human Happiness
Read *On Liberty*, ch. 3 (56-74)

Thur., Oct. 24 – ****Comprehension Quiz****

Tue., Oct. 29 – The System of Inequality between the Sexes
Read *The Subjection of Women*, ch. 1 (119-145)

Thur., Oct. 31 – Women in the Family and in the Married Condition
Read *The Subjection of Women*, chs. 2-3 (146-194)

Tue., Nov. 5 – ****Comprehension Quiz****

Thur., Nov. 7 – Introduction to Nietzsche
Read *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Preface (15-23)

Tue., Nov. 12 – What is a Genealogy of Morals?
Read *On the Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay (24-56)

Thur., Nov. 14 – Slave Revolt in Morality
Read *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay (57-96)

Tue., Nov. 19 – Will to Power and *ressentiment*
Optional reading: *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Third Essay (97-163)

Thur., Nov. 22 – Lying in Politics: Reflections on the Pentagon Papers
Read Arendt's essay, "Lying in Politics" (on eLC)
****Nietzsche Paper Due**** and ****Reading Quiz****

Tue., Nov. 26 – NO CLASS

Last class, Tue., Dec. 3 – In-class extra credit factoid quiz and course evaluations