**Introduction to Political Theory**

Fall 2022 Professor Alexandria M. Putman

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Email: amp33579@uga.edu

3PM to 3:50PM Office: Baldwin Hall 303A

Classroom: Baldwin Hall 102 Office Hours: MWF 2PM or By Appointment

*Course Objectives*

This course is organized with the intention to introduce students to a variety of foundational texts in political theory and to help organize discussion on a variety of topics among peers. This course addresses a selection of texts from many primary sources in order to give students a base level knowledge on classics within the western tradition. Using these texts, we will attempt to address several fundamental questions in political theory: What is justice? What makes a fair society? What system of government is best? What is the nature of man? And how do we avoid tyranny?

This course seeks to address these questions and many more through class discussion on a selection of the literature every week. Almost every week, we will look at a new text and the key themes throughout by engaging in respectful dialogue about the content and selected passages. This course also seeks to accomplish the following course objectives:

1. To provide an introduction to important problems and theories in political philosophy.
2. To examine how different political theories are formulated and how they relate to each other.
3. To explore the ways in which works of political philosophy may inform and enrich contemporary political discussions.

*Prerequisites*

POLS 1101 or POLS 1101E or POLS 1105H

*Required Materials*

This class will cover a wide variety of texts from western political thought and as such requires access to several books through the course. These are listed below for your convenience. Before purchasing any copies, it should be noted that all copies suggested below are also available through more budget friendly avenues, like Chegg, Amazon (Used and New), and Kindle, and can found in other editions if the student prefers to the ones suggested below. Many of these texts are also available under public domain online in LibertyFund’s Online Library of Liberty or through the library website at no cost, which is perfectly fine to use in class if you would prefer online editions. All other readings will be given ahead of time through the eLC page. Please try to have a copy in class if you would like to follow along with any quotations discussed during the meeting.

1. Plato’s *Republic*. ISBN: 0140455116, Penguin Classics
2. Aristotle’s *Politics*. ISBN: 9780140444216, Penguin Classics
3. Thomas Hobbes’ *The Leviathan*. ISBN: 0141395095, Penguin Classics
4. Machiavelli’s *The Prince*. ISBN: 9780199535699, Oxford World Classics
5. Rousseau’s *On The Social Contract*. ISBN: 1624667856, Hackett Publishing
6. Locke’s *Second Treatise On Government*. ISBN: 0915144867, Hackett Classics
7. Alexis De Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*. ISBN: 1931082545, Library of America
8. John Stuart Mill’s *On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays*. ISBN: 0199670803, Oxford World’s Classics
9. Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*. ISBN: 9780140447576, Penguin Classics
10. Rawls’ *A Theory of Justice*. ISBN: 0674000781, Belknap Press

*Course Grading*

This course will be graded based on the university’s plus/minus grading system:

A= 100-94 A-= 93-90

B+= 89-87 B= 86-83 B-=82-80

C+= 79-77 C= 76-73 C-=72-70

D+= 69-67 D= 66-63 D-=62-60

F= <60

*Course Requirements*

Participation:

One of the main aspects of the course will be learning how to discuss these more theoretical aspects of political science in the context of broader political concepts. To that end, a large part of your grade will also be about your participation in daily class discussions on the weeks assigned reading. Participation will be assessed during class discussions after the roll is taken to see who is present. This portion of the grade will be 20% of the final grade and will be entirely based participation in discussions during class time and attendance to weekly lectures.

Discussion Posts:

Each week, for the most part, there will be a discussion post due on Sunday at midnight on the previous text discussed in class. For most weeks, this will mean that we will start the weeks content on Monday and then you will have any time between the end of class Monday and midnight on Sunday to write a brief post about something we discussed in class relating to the week’s material. This can be a response to an idea someone posed in class, or it can be a reflection on the material and how it may relate to present issues. I will offer some sample topics or questions you may use, but ideally this should just be your reflection on the most recent text and the themes it presents. This will be 30% of your grade in the class, and you will be responsible for writing a paragraph (atleast 8 sentences) on the text being discussed for 10 of the 13 texts discussed. You may do any 10 of the 13, but they will be due at midnight on Sunday and late work will not be accepted.

Papers:

In this class, you will have two papers due throughout the course of the semester. The first will be your midterm paper that will consist of a close reading of the texts from first half of class to discuss one of several common topics that I will give you when we discuss the paper more formally. These topics will include broad themes from the texts and will require you to pull from both your own ideas on the subject and several of the philosophers discussed. You will also have the opportunity to propose topics for the paper if you have additional commentary about another key theme not initially addressed. This paper should be 5 to 6 pages and I will give you a rough rubric for the assignment before you begin the paper. This paper should be a chance to allow you to elaborate on several key texts and questions you may have about the literature. A works cited will be due along with this paper and it should be in Chicago Style. The midterm paper will count toward 20% of your final grade in this course.

The final paper will have a similar structure and rubric to the midterm, however, it will be written on a specific policy and how arguments from our readings can support a policy or government arrangement. Further instructions on this will be given prior to the midterm paper being due, but like before, I will give you a rubric for the assignment and allow you to propose additional topics if you find one particular policy more interesting or relevant to discussion. Prior to submitting the final paper, you will submit a rough draft of the paper that will be worth 10% of your final grade. This should be around 3 to 4 pages with a suggested works cited for the paper included at the end in Chicago Style. The rough draft will be a chance for you to receive additional feedback from me about your paper but will mostly just be graded on completion of the works cited and on reaching the page limit. The final draft will be worth 20% of your final grade and will be graded on a rubric that I will give you in class. This will not be graded on completion and will require work ahead of the deadline to organize. This final paper should be 9 to 10 pages and late work will not be accepted.

Final Grade:

20% = Attendance/Participation

30% = Discussion Posts

20% = Midterm Paper

10% = Rough Draft of Final Paper

+20% = Final Paper

100%

*Academic Honesty*

All students at the University of Georgia are held to the academic standards put forward in the UGA Student Honor Code. No acts of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated in this class in accordance with the Honor Code.

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi) .

*Discussion and Online Etiquette*

As mentioned above, much of the class will depend on active discussion from you, the students. The topics addressed in the class may, at times, include subjects of a political or intense nature and as such, it is important to recognize that these may be hard discussions for some of your peers. Please treat others in this class with respect and compassion during these discussions, especially in the case of disagreement among peers. I will do my part to remain neutral and to moderate these discussions, but we must all try to be understanding of each other’s beliefs and experiences.

*Disability Accommodation*

If you have a disability and would like accommodation, please contact me either via email or in person in office hours, so that appropriate accommodations can be made for you as soon as possible. Please also contact the Disability Resource Center at [drc@uga.edu](mailto:drc@uga.edu) or (706)542-8719 to receive the necessary accommodation for class. They can also be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall or their website, <http://drc.uga.edu>.

*Health and Safety*

During these recent years, it is required now more than ever that we work to protect the health and safety of our fellow Dawgs. As such, please see the below resources if you or someone you know is in need of assistance:

* Student Care and Outreach: (706)542-7774 or <https://sco.uga.edu>
* Mental Health Service at BeWellUGA: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/>
* Crisis Support: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/>
* Additional resources are provided via the UGA app and CAPS.

Please reach out if you need any help accessing these or need further assistance.

Continually, if you are sick, please protect yourself and others and stay home and seek medical help, if possible. In these unprecedented times, it is important to take your health as a priority. Please reach out if you are feeling unwell, so that we can make accommodations for class work or discussion during your absence. Remember that you will need a doctor’s note or other official university excuse for the absence to be excused. Also consider wearing a mask to class in the event that you are sick if you cannot stay home.

*Attendance*

Attendance will be taken every day in class and will count toward your overall participation grade. You will receive 3 free absences that are unexcused and then after that you will lose a point from your participation grade. For absences to count as excused, you will need a written doctors excuse or university excuse. Please try to stay home and seek treatment if you are sick. We will do our best to work around any days missed either through online accommodations or other arrangements. If you cannot make class due to an illness or other unforeseen circumstances, please contact me and let me know, so that we can get you up to speed on anything missed.

*Makeup Procedures*

In general, late work will not be accepted in the absence of a doctors excuse or university excuse. If you are sick or out with the university, then accommodations can be made to ensure the student has adequate time to complete the assignment. This may be done through the extension of the deadline for the assignment, if necessary and applicable.

*FERPA Notice*

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the registrar’s explanation at reg.uga.edu/generalinformation/ferpa/. FERPA allows disclosure of directory information (name, address, telephone, email, major, activities, degrees, awards, prior schools), unless requested in a written letter to the registrar.

*Mental Health and Wellness*

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty with mental health or general wellness, please see below some of the resources the university can provide. In addition, please reach out if you need help with any of the below or help with access to mental health resources.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

* If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu/ . They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services
* UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (hhtps://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) or crisis support ( https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies).
* If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA ( https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga ) for a list of FREE workshops, classes , mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
* Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

*Disclaimer*

All aspects of the schedule and syllabus are tentative and subject to change in the event that we need more time for a topic or need to rearrange our course structure. All changes will be posted to eLC and discussed both in class and via email if they become necessary.

*Course Schedule*

August

17th: Introductions and Syllabus

19th: In Class Assignment/Discussion

22nd: ***Plato’s Republic*** I and II

24th: ***Plato’s Republic*** III, IV, and V

26th: ***Plato’s Republic*** III, IV, and V (cont.)

29th: ***Plato’s Republic*** VII and IX

31st: ***Plato’s Republic*** VII

September

2nd: ***Plato’s Republic*** VII (cont.)

5th: ***Aristotle’s Politics*** III

7th: ***Aristotle’s Politics*** IV and VI

9th: ***Aristotle’s Politics*** VII

12th: ***Hobbes’ Leviathan*** Of Man

14th: ***Hobbes’ Leviathan*** Of Commonwealth Pt. 1

16th: ***Hobbes’ Leviathan*** Of Commonwealth Pt. 2

19th: ***The Prince*** Intro. Day to Chap. 1-9

21st: ***The Prince*** 4-19

23rd: ***The Prince*** 20-23

26th: ***Rousseau’s The Social Contract*** Introduction and Explanation (no reading)

28th: ***Rousseau’s The Social Contract*** Book 2

30th: ***Rousseau’s The Social Contract*** Book 4

October

3rd: ***Locke’s Second Treatise*** Chap. II and III

5th: ***Locke’s Second Treatise*** Chap. VII, VIII, and IX

7th: ***Locke’s Second Treatise*** Chap. V, XI, and XIII

10th: ***Tocqueville’s Democracy in America*** Chap. XIII

12th: ***Tocqueville’s Democracy in America*** Chap. XIV

14th: ***Tocqueville’s Democracy in America*** Chap. XV and XVI

17th: ***Federalist Papers*** Fed. 10

19th: ***Federalist Papers*** Fed. 51

21st: **Fall Break**

24th: ***Marx and Engels Communist Manifesto*** Part 2

26th: ***Marx and Engels Communist Manifesto*** Part 3

28th: ***Marx and Engels Communist Manifesto*** Part 4

**30th: Midterm Paper due!**

31st: ***Mill’s On Liberty*** Chap. 2

November

2nd: ***Mill’s On Liberty*** Chap. 4

4th: ***Mill’s On Liberty*** Chap. 4

7th: ***Rawls’ Theory of Justice*** Part 1: Chap. 1

9th: ***Rawls’ Theory of Justice*** Part 1: Chap. 2

11th: ***Rawls’ Theory of Justice*** Part 1: Chap. 3

14th: **TBD**

16th: **TBD**

18th: **TBD**

**20th: Rough Drafts due!**

21st: ***Le Guin The Ones Who Walked Away From Omelas***

23rd: **Thanksgiving Break**

25th: **Thanksgiving Break**

28th: ***Bacon’s New Atlantis***

30th: In Class Paper Discussions

December

2nd: In Class Paper Discussions

5th: In Class Paper Discussions

**11th:** **Final Papers are due!**