

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3000: INTRODUCTION POLITICAL THEORY

SPRING 2023

INSTRUCTOR

JEREMY K. CYNAMON

EMAIL

JKCYNAMON@UGA.EDU

TIME & LOCATION

MON/WED/FRI
9:10 - 10:00 AM
BALDWIN 101D

OFFICE HOURS

MON/WED
11:30AM -1:00 PM
413 BALDWIN HALL

GRADING SCALE

100-93 A
92-90 A-
89-87 B+
86-83 B
82-80 B-
79-77 C+
76-73 C
72-70 C-
69-60 D
59-0 F

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course serves as an introduction to political theory. It begins by examining the field as a distinctive way of studying politics. Subsequent readings are arranged historically to familiarize students not only with major concepts and themes in political theory, but also the general development of the field. Rather than be comprehensive, this course offers a broad outline of the history of political thought as well a sense of what this particular approach to the study of politics has to offer. Students should also come away with the course having developed a more analytically precise vocabulary with which to write about & discuss politics from a normative point of view.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Republic, Plato (Hackett Classics) *Translated by G.M.A Grube*

Five Dialogues, Plato (Hackett Classics) *Translated by G.M.A Grube*

Politics, Aristotle (Hackett Classics) *Translated by C.D.C. Reeve*

Leviathan, Hobbes (any edition)

Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings (Hackett Classics)

On Liberty, John Stuart Mill (any edition)

Any other assigned readings or audio/visual materials will be made available to you via ELC.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: 20%

This is not an assignment heavy course. There are no weekly quizzes or reading checks. That means success in this course requires you to show up to class and participate in the discussion. This will constitute 20% of your grade. If you will not be able to make a session, and have a legitimate reason (documented illness, athletics, etc.) please let me know *prior* to the missed session. Absences will decrease your attendance and participation grade. If you are uncomfortable speaking in classroom settings, please set up a time to

Speak with me in office hours and we can come up with alternative arrangements.

STYLE 'TRANSLATION' EXERCISE: 25%

This assignment asks you to choose one of the Platonic dialogues, identify a few passages that you find particularly important and rewrite your selection line by line in contemporary prose. This exercise is about clarity and precision in both *interpretation* and *writing*. You should choose a short excerpt (minimum 3 passages/paragraphs; no more than 6). Focus on getting the interpretive details correct and making your writing as clear as possible. Further instructions will be given in class.

INTERPRETIVE PAPER (6-7 PAGES) FIRST SUBMISSION: 25%

You will write *one* paper in this course in two drafts. This assignment is meant to be *interpretive & evaluative*. It will require you to reconstruct an argument from the texts we read and evaluate its persuasiveness. E.g. "In *Plato's Republic* Thrasymachus claims that justice is the will of the strong. What does he mean and what is the basis of Socrates' disagreement with him? Whose view do you find more convincing and why?" Paper prompts will be shared well in advance of the due date and discussed collectively in class. I will also provide detailed instructions for writing successful papers of this type.

INTERPRETIVE PAPER (8-10 PAGES) FINAL SUBMISSION: 30%

You will receive detailed feedback and suggestions on the first draft of your paper. Your final assignment will be to take this constructive feedback and integrate it into a new draft of the paper. As I will explain in class, this does not mean minor stylistic or grammatical changes. It will require revising and rewriting significant portions of the paper. You will also be required to introduce a comparative analysis between the thinker and/or topic you are writing about and a thinker and/or topic from the second half of the course. At the end of the assignment, you will have a much better sense of how to write successful papers at the university level, as well as how to respond to and integrate constructive feedback. Further instructions will be provided in class.

OFFICE HOURS

I am here to help you be successful in this course. If you are struggling with one of the readings or topics covered in class, come speak with me during office hours. If my scheduled office hours do not work for you, reach out via email and we will try to set up a time that does.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the

Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here:
<http://drc.uga.edu/>

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawal- passing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences (see course attendance policy). Please review the policy here: <https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/policies/withdrawals/>

CULTURE OF HONESTY POLICY

You are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures relating to academic honesty. To understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University, please carefully review the policy here: https://honesty.uga.edu/resources/documents/academic_honesty_policy_2017.pdf

SYLLABUS POLICY

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus if necessary. I will give you fair notice (at least a week) if something, such as a reading assignment, is to change.

GRADING, INCOMPLETES, & LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

- If you have questions about a grade you received in the course, find a time to come speak with me in office hours. If, after talking, you would like to formally request a re-grade you may do so. Keep in mind that formal grade appeals must be made in writing and I will re-grade your entire assignment. Your grade can go up or down.
- A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given in this course under exceptional circumstances and is solely at my discretion. If an incomplete is given, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the necessary requirements as early in the following semester as possible.
- Late assignments will be docked 5 percent per day (half letter grade), for each day that a project is late (including weekends). If you need a (reasonable) extension, talk to me *ahead of time*.

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 (<https://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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
January 9 th	What is Political Theory? The Differences Between Normative and Descriptive Approaches to the Study of Politics	None
January 11 th	Why Study the Ancients?	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Editor's Introduction viii-xvii)
January 13 th	Plato: Competing Conceptions of Justice I	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book I 327 - 344d)
January 18 th	Plato: Competing Conceptions of Justice II	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book II 357-363)
January 20 th	Plato: The Platonic Conception of Justice	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book IV 433-445e)
January 23 rd	Plato: Theory of Knowledge & Critique of Democracy	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book VII 514a-522)
January 25 th	How to Interpret Texts	<i>Apology</i> , Plato
Introduce Assignment #1		
January 27 th	Plato: Political Obligation & Moral Holism	<i>Crito</i> , Plato
January 30 th	Guided In Class Work Session	Bring your chosen passages for Assignment #1 to class.
February 1 st	Aristotle: Why Study Politics?	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Aristotle (Book X, Section 9)
February 3 rd	Aristotle: Political Community	<i>Politics</i> , Aristotle (Book I, 1-7)
February 6 th	Aristotle: Citizenship	<i>Politics</i> , Aristotle (Book III, 1-7)
February 8 th	Aristotle: The Middle Constitution	<i>Politics</i> , Aristotle (Book IV, 1-12)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
February 10 th Assignment #1 Due	From Antiquity to Modernity	None
February 13 th	Thomas Hobbes: Introduction	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 5, 6, 10-12)
February 15 th	Hobbes Contra Aristotle	None
February 17 th	Hobbes: The State of Nature	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 13)
February 20 th	Hobbes: The Social Contract	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 14-16)
February 22 nd	Hobbes: Sovereigns & Sovereignty	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapter 18)
February 24 th	Hobbes: Negative Freedom	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapter 21)
February 27 th Introduce Assignment #2	How to Write a Political Theory Paper	None
March 1 st	Jean Jacques Rousseau: The Social Contract	<i>On The Social Contract</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Book I)
March 3 rd	Rousseau: The Social Contract II	<i>On The Social Contract</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Book II)
March 13 th	Rousseau: The Origins of Inequality	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Part I)
March 15 th	Rousseau Contra Locke: The Origins of Property	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Part II)
March 17 th	Peer Review Session	Come prepared to discuss a draft of your paper.
March 20 th	James Madison: Balancing The Rights of Persons & The Rights of Property	<i>Federalist #10</i> , James Madison
March 22 nd Assignment #2 Due	Jeremy Bentham: Utilitarianism	<i>A Fragment on Government</i> , Jeremy Bentham (Preface)
March 24 th	John Stuart Mill: Liberalism	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter I)
March 27 th	J.S. Mill: Free Speech	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter II)
March 29 th	J.S. Mill: On Individuality and Paternalism	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter III)
March 31 st	J.S. Mill: Paternalism	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter IV)
April 3 rd	J.S. Mill: Applying the Harm Principle	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter V)
April 5 th	J.S. Mill: On Colonialism	<i>Civilization</i> , JS Mill (pp. 119-129)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
April 7 th Introduce Assignment #3	How to Respond to & Integrate Constructive Feedback	None
April 10 th	Karl Marx: Socialism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , Karl Marx
April 12 th	Edmund Burke: Conservatism	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> , Edmund Burke (pp. 66-83)
April 14 th	Simone de Beauvoir: Feminism	<i>The Second Sex</i> , Simone de Beauvoir (Introduction, Ch. 25, Conclusion)
April 17 th	Libertarianism	<i>Anarchy, State, & Utopia</i> , Robert Nozick (pp. 149-174)
April 19 th	Liberal Egalitarianism	<i>A Theory of Justice</i> (revised edition), John Rawls (pp. 52-56, 118-119)
April 21 st	Deep Democracy	<i>On Democracy</i> , Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers (Chapter 3)
April 24 th	Is the U.S. Democratic Enough?	<i>On Democracy</i> , Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers (Chapters 4-5)
April 26 th	Peer Review Session	Come prepared to discuss a draft of your paper.
April 28 th	Review of Concepts: What Have we Learned?	Come prepared with a list of the major concepts we have studied throughout the course.
May 1 st Assignment #3 Due	The Role of Political Theory Today	<i>What is Enlightenment</i> , Immanuel Kant

LIST OF DUE DATES

- Style Translation Exercise: February 10th
- Interpretive Paper First Submission: March 22nd
- Interpretive Paper Final Submission: May 1st

Supplemental Readings:

The literature interpreting and responding to many of the primary texts we read in this course is vast. Below, I have collected a very brief sampling of helpful secondary literature. I am always happy to provide more specific recommendations on thinkers or topics of interest to you.

Plato:

- Ferrari, Giovanni RF, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Reeve, Charles David Chanel. *Philosopher-kings: the argument of Plato's Republic*. Hackett Publishing, 2006.

Aristotle:

- Nussbaum, Martha C. "Human functioning and social justice: In defense of Aristotelian essentialism." *Political theory* 20, no. 2 (1992): 202-246.
- Pangle, Lorraine Smith. *Aristotle and the Philosophy of Friendship*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Yack, Bernard. *The Problems of a Political Animal*. University of California Press, 1993.

Thomas Hobbes:

- Abizadeh, Arash. *Hobbes and the two faces of ethics*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Martinich, Patrick, and Kinch Hoekstra, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Hobbes*. Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Rawls, John. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Springborg, Patricia, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Hobbes's Leviathan*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

J.J. Rousseau:

- Cohen, Joshua. *Rousseau: A free community of equals*. OUP Oxford, 2010.
- Neuhauser, Frederick. *Rousseau's theodicy of self-love: evil, rationality, and the drive for recognition*. OUP Oxford, 2010.
- Rawls, John. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Harvard University Press, 2007.

Jeremy Bentham:

- Hart, HLA. *Essays on Bentham: Jurisprudence and political philosophy*. OUP Oxford, 1982.
- Rosenblum, Nancy L. *Bentham's Theory of the Modern State*. Harvard University Press, 2013.

J.S. Mill:

- Baum, Bruce. *Rereading Power and Freedom in JS Mill*. University of Toronto Press, 2016.
- Donner, Wendy. *The Liberal Self*. Cornell University Press, 2018.
- Ryan, Alan. *JS Mill (Routledge Revivals)*. Routledge, 2016.
- "Legislator of the world?" Jennifer Pitts in *Political theory* 31, no. 2 (2003): 200-234
- "John Stuart Mill on Colonies," Duncan Bell in *Political Theory* 38, no. 1 (2010): 34-64

Karl Marx:

- Avineri, Shlomo. *The social and political thought of Karl Marx*. Cambridge University Press, 1968.
- MacKinnon, Catharine A. *Toward a feminist theory of the state*. Harvard University Press, 1989.
- Megill, Allan. *Prophets of Extremity*. University of California Press, 1985.
- Yack, Bernard. *The Longing for Total Revolution*. University of California Press, 2020.

Edmund Burke:

- Norman, Jesse. 2013, *Edmund Burke. The First Conservative*, New York: Basic Books.
- Stanlis, Peter. *Edmund Burke and the Natural Law*. Routledge, 2017.
- Wollstonecraft, Mary. *A Vindication of the Rights of Men, in a letter to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke; occasioned by his Reflections on the Revolution in France*. J. Johnson, 1790.

Simone de Beauvoir:

- Bauer, Nancy. *Simone de Beauvoir, Philosophy, and Feminism*. Columbia University Press, 2001.
- Fullbrook, Edward and Kate Fullbrook, *Simone de Beauvoir: A Critical Introduction*, Polity Press, 1998

John Rawls:

- Daniels, Norman. *Reading Rawls: critical studies on Rawls' A theory of justice*. Stanford University Press, 1989.
- Forrester, Katrina. *In the Shadow of Justice*. Princeton University Press, 2019.
- Kaufman, Alexander. *Rawls's Egalitarianism*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Pateman, Carole, and Charles Mills. *Contract and domination*. Polity, 2007.
- Freeman, Sam, (ed.) *The Cambridge companion to Rawls*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.