

POLS 4020. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: HOBBS TO NIETZSCHE

SPRING 2023

INSTRUCTOR

JEREMY K. CYNAMON

EMAIL

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TIME & LOCATION

MON/WED/FRI
1:50 - 2:40 PM
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 a study of modern political philosophy/theory. It begins by introducing students to the subfield of political philosophy as a distinctive way of studying politics. Substantively, the course is centered on a number of key concepts and themes. It presents these not as historical artifacts, but as the set of ideas that still underpin the way we organize our political life today. Themes and concepts include: individualism, the social contract, justice, freedom, & private property. Students should come away from the course with an understanding of the genesis of some of our most important political institutions & commitments, as well as having developed a more analytically precise vocabulary with which to write about and discuss politics from a normative point of view.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes (Penguin Classics)

Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings (Hackett)

On Liberty & The Subjection of Women, John Stuart Mill (Penguin Classics)

Marx-Engels Reader, ed. Robert Tucker (Norton)

On the Genealogy of Morals, Friedrich Nietzsche (Vintage)

You must have a copy of all the texts listed above. It is important that you have the listed version, especially for texts which have been translated. Any other assigned readings or audio/visual materials will be made available to you.

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 a section in Hobbes' *Leviathan* that you find particularly important and rewrite your selection line by line in lucid, contemporary prose. This exercise is about clarity and precision in both interpretation and writing. You should choose a short excerpt (minimum 4 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 #1 (6-8 PAGES): 25%

You will write two papers in this course. Both papers are meant to be *interpretive & evaluative*. They will require you to reconstruct an argument from the texts we read and evaluate its persuasiveness. E.g. "In Hobbes' *Leviathan*, he argues against the ancient way of thinking about justice. Instead of a 'substantive' view, Hobbes proposes a 'procedural' one. What is his position? Do you find his account convincing? Why or why not?" 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 #2 (7-9 PAGES): 30%

You will write a second, slightly longer paper for your final assignment. This paper will also be *interpretive & evaluative*. Like the first, it will require you to reconstruct an argument from the texts we read and evaluate its persuasiveness. Be sure to pay close attention to the feedback you received for your first paper. You will be graded, in part, on your ability to avoid making the same errors again. Paper prompts will be shared well in advance of the due date and discussed collectively 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 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	Introduction: The Differences Between Normative and Descriptive Approaches to the Study of Politics	No reading
January 11 th	What is Modernity?	<i>What is Enlightenment</i> , Immanuel Kant
January 13 th	Thomas Hobbes: Introduction	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapters 5, 6, 11, 13)
January 18 th	Hobbes: The Benefits of Political Order	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapters 14-17)
January 20 th	Hobbes: Sovereignty	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapter 18)
Introduce Assignment #1		
January 23 rd	Hobbes: Negative Freedom/Liberty	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapter 21)
January 25 th	In Class Work Session	Bring your chosen passages for Assignment #1 to class.
January 27 th	Jean Jacques Rousseau: Introduction	<i>On The Social Contract</i> (Book I)
January 30 th	Rousseau: The Social Contract	<i>On The Social Contract</i> (Book II)
February 1 st	Rousseau: Property and Inequality	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> (Part I)
February 3 rd	Rousseau: Property and Inequality Pt. II	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> (Part II)
February 6 th	Social (Contract) Theory: Comparing Hobbes & Rousseau	No reading
Assignment #1 Due		
February 8 th	James Madison: The Tension Between The Rights of Persons & The Rights of Property	<i>Federalist #10</i> (full text)
February 10 th	Mary Wollstonecraft: Foundations of Feminism	<i>On the Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (Introduction; Chapter 5, Section 1: "Rousseau"; Chapter 13, Section 6: "Concluding Thoughts")
February 13 th	Benjamin Constant: The Differences between Ancient & Modern Freedom	"Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns" (Full text)
February 15 th	Jeremy Bentham: Utilitarianism	<i>A Fragment on Government</i> (Preface)
February 17 th	How to Write a Political Theory Paper	No reading
Introduce Assignment #2		
February 20 th	Ralph Waldo Emerson: Expressive Individualism	<i>Self-Reliance</i> (full essay)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
February 22 nd	Edmund Burke: The Conservative Critique of Rationalism	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> , Edmund Burke (pp. 66-83)
February 24 th	John Stuart Mill: Introduction	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter I)
February 27 th	J.S. Mill: Liberalism	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter II)
March 1 st	J.S. Mill: Individuality	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter III)
March 3 rd	J.S. Mill: Paternalism & The Harm Principle	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter IV)
March 13 th	Peer Review Session	No reading. Come prepared with a draft of your paper to discuss.
March 15 th	J.S. Mill: Applying the Harm Principle	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter V)
Assignment #2 Due		
March 17 th	J.S. & Harriet Taylor Mill: On the Subjection of Women	<i>On the Subjection of Women</i> (Chapters 1 & 4)
March 20 th	J.S. Mill: Colonialism	<i>Civilization</i> , JS Mill (pp. 119-129)
March 22 nd	Immanuel Kant: Autonomy as Freedom	<i>Groundwork For the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , (pp. 58-69)
March 24 th	Friedrich Schiller: Alienation, Nature, & Freedom	<i>On the Aesthetic Education of Man</i> , (Letters 3, 5, 6)
March 27 th	GWF Hegel: The Master-Slave Dialectic	<i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , (Independence and Dependence of Self-Consciousness: Lordship and Bondage, paragraphs 178-196)
March 29 th	Karl Marx: Introduction	<i>Theses on Feuerbach</i> (pp. 143-145 in M-E Reader)
March 31 st	Marx: Alienation	<i>1844 Manuscripts: "Estranged Labor"</i> (pp. 70-81 in M-E Reader)
April 3 rd	Marx: The Categorical Imperative	<i>Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction</i> (pp. 53-65 in M-E Reader)
April 5 th	How to Strengthen Interpretive Arguments	No reading
Introduce Assignment #3		
April 7 th	Marx: Ideology & The Limits of Philosophy	<i>The German Ideology</i> (pp. 146-155 in M-E Reader)
April 10 th	Marx: Communism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (pp. 473-483, 499-500 in M-E Reader)
April 12 th	Marx & Mill Contra Burke: The Limits of Rationalism in Politics	Review your notes on Burke & Mill.
April 14 th	Friedrich Nietzsche: Introduction	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (pp. 3-23)
April 17 th	Nietzsche: Good/Bad & Good/Evil	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (Essay 1, Sections 1-17)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
April 19 th	Nietzsche: Guilt & Bad Conscience	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (Essay 2, Sections 1-17, 22-25)
April 21 st	Nietzsche: Ascetic Ideals	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (Essay 3, Sections 1, 11, 13, 27-28)
April 24 th	Nietzsche: Radical Self-Creation	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , (Sections 21, 23, 29) <i>Will to Power</i> (Sections 890, 904, 928, 933)
April 26 th	Peer Review Session	No reading. Come prepared with a draft of your paper to discuss.
April 28 th	Comparing Radicals: Marx & Nietzsche	Review your notes from our Marx & Nietzsche discussions.
May 1 st	Modernity as an Unfinished Project	No reading

Assignment #3 Due

LIST OF DUE DATES

- Style Translation Exercise: February 6th
- Assignment #2: March 15th
- Assignment #3: May 1st