

POLS 4020E. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: HOBBS TO NIETZSCHE

SUMMER 2023 – SHORT SESSION II (ONLINE)

INSTRUCTOR

DR. JEREMY KINGSTON
CYNAMON

EMAIL

JKCYNAMON@UGA.EDU

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 asynchronous online course serves as a study of modern political philosophy/theory. The course is arranged around four units. The first explains political theory as a distinctive approach to understanding and evaluating political life. The second unit focuses on the Liberal tradition from Thomas Hobbes to John Stuart Mill. The third unit focuses on the idea of freedom in Modern German political thought from Immanuel Kant to Karl Marx. The final unit focuses on Friedrich Nietzsche's criticism of various trends in Modernity.

Students should come away from the course with an understanding of the genesis of some of our most important political institutions and 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)

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)

OFFICE HOURS

The most effective way to contact me for assistance with the course is via email. My office hours will be on Zoom via appointment. To set up a time to meet, please reach out via email *at least 24 hours* ahead of the time. Do not hesitate to get in contact with me. I am here to help you.

GRADING BREAKDOWN & DUE DATES

The grading breakdown for this asynchronous course is straightforward. You will write *four* reflection papers and *one* interpretive & evaluative paper.

You **must submit at least 2 reflection papers prior to July 21st**. This will give you the opportunity to incorporate my feedback into your remaining assignments. **You can submit the remaining assignments as you go, or you can turn them all in at the end of the course (August 3rd)**. Any submission received after August 3rd will receive zero credit. However, I highly

recommend that you turn in assignments as you go, so that you can receive feedback and integrate it into your future assignments

REFLECTION PAPERS: You will be assessed in terms of **four** (2 page, double spaced) reflection papers. These will accompany each of the four units in the course and constitute 50% of your grade. The reflection papers are designed to give you an opportunity to show me that you are engaging with the text, rather than just listening to my lectures. These will require you to cite the text(s) you are reading.

INTERPRETIVE & EVALUATIVE PAPER: The other 50% of your grade will be assessed on the basis of **one** (6-8 page, double spaced) interpretive and evaluative paper. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you can engage closely with the materials from the course by developing and expressing your own opinion about some aspect thereof.

All assignments will come with specific and detailed prompts & directions. I will discuss paper prompts in my video lectures, provide extensive directions on how to write and execute the paper, as well as post samples from previous years on ELC.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

If you anticipate needing 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:

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 they are late (including weekends). If you need a (reasonable) extension, reach out 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

Below you will find the course schedule. Please go in order. Later units will assume that you are familiar with the terms and concepts established in prior lectures. All the readings can be found either in the required texts (listed above) or on ELC under the “Readings” tab.

VIDEO LECTURE	SUBJECT	READING(S)
Introduction: 1	Syllabus Overview	No reading
Introduction: 2	The Differences Between Normative and Descriptive Approaches to the Study of Politics	No reading.
Introduction: 3	What is Modernity?	<i>What is Enlightenment</i> , Immanuel Kant [ELC]
Hobbes-Mill: 1	Thomas Hobbes: Introduction	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapters 5, 6, 11, 13)
Hobbes-Mill: 2	Hobbes: The Benefits of Political Order	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapters 14-17)
Hobbes-Mill: 3	Hobbes: Sovereignty	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapter 18)
Hobbes-Mill: 4	Hobbes: Negative Freedom/Liberty	<i>Leviathan</i> (Chapter 21)
Hobbes-Mill: 5	Jeremy Bentham: The Bridge from Hobbes to Mill	<i>A Fragment on Government</i> (Preface) [ELC]
Hobbes-Mill: 6	John Stuart Mill: Introduction	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter I)
Hobbes-Mill: 7	J.S. Mill: Liberalism	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter II)
Hobbes-Mill: 8	J.S. Mill: Individuality	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter III)
Hobbes-Mill: 9	J.S. Mill: Paternalism & The Harm Principle	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter IV)
Hobbes-Mill: 10	J.S. & Harriet Taylor Mill: On the Subjection of Women	<i>On the Subjection of Women</i> (Chapters 1 & 4)
Hobbes-Mill: 11	J.S. Mill: Colonialism	<i>Civilization</i> , JS Mill (pp. 119-129) [ELC]
Kant-Marx: 1	Immanuel Kant: Autonomy as Freedom	<i>Groundwork For the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , (pp. 58-69) [ELC]
Kant-Marx: 2	Friedrich Schiller: Alienation, Nature, & Freedom	<i>On the Aesthetic Education of Man</i> , (Letters 3, 5, 6) [ELC]
Kant-Marx: 3	G.W.F. Hegel: The Master-Slave Dialectic	<i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , (Independence and Dependence of Self-Consciousness: paragraphs 178-196) [ELC]
Kant-Marx: 4	Karl Marx: Introduction	<i>Theses on Feuerbach</i> (pp. 143-145 in Marx-Engels Reader)
Kant-Marx: 5	Marx: Alienation	<i>1844 Manuscripts: “Estranged Labor”</i> (pp. 70-81 in M-E Reader)
Kant-Marx: 6	Marx: The Categorical Imperative	<i>Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right: Introduction</i> (pp. 53-65 in M-E Reader)

VIDEO LECTURE	SUBJECT	READING(S)
Kant-Marx: 7	Marx: Ideology & The Limits of Philosophy	<i>The German Ideology</i> (pp. 146-155 in M-E Reader)
Kant-Marx: 8	Marx: Communism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (pp. 473-483, 499-500 in M-E Reader)
Paper Writing	How to Write a Political Theory Paper	No reading
Nietzsche: 1	Friedrich Nietzsche: Introduction	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (pp. 3-23)
Nietzsche: 2	Nietzsche: Good/Bad & Good/Evil	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (Essay 1, Sections 1-17)
Nietzsche: 3	Nietzsche: Guilt & Bad Conscience	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (Essay 2, Sections 1-17, 22-25)
Nietzsche: 4	Nietzsche: Ascetic Ideals	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (Essay 3, Sections 1, 11, 13, 27-28)
Nietzsche: 5	Nietzsche: Radical Self-Creation	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , (Sections 21, 23, 29) [ELC] <i>Will to Power</i> (Sections 890, 904, 928, 933) [ELC]
Conclusion		No reading

DUE DATE REMINDER:

Remember that you must submit at least 2 reflection papers prior to July 21st. Other assignments can be completed as you go, but all assignments must be submitted to ELC by August 3rd. Any submission received after August 3rd will receive zero credit.