

POLS 3000: INTRODUCTION POLITICAL THEORY, SPRING 2024

INSTRUCTOR

DR. JEREMY KINGSTON
CYNAMON

EMAIL

JKCYNAMON@UGA.EDU

TIME & LOCATION

TUE/THURS
11:10-12:25 PM
BALDWIN 101D

OFFICE HOURS

TUE/THURS
12:45 - 2:00 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

LIST OF DUE DATES

Assignment #1

February 6th

Assignment #2

March 14th

Assignment #3

April 29th

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 being comprehensive, this course offers a broad outline of the history of political thought as well as 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)
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. As such, being successful will require you to *show up* to class having done the reading and be ready to *participate* in the discussion. Points for participation are awarded at my discretion. 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. Repeated absences will decrease this portion of your grade. If you are uncomfortable speaking in classroom settings, please set up a time to speak with me during the first week of the course and we can come up with alternative arrangements.

ASSIGNMENT #1 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 the form of a contemporary argumentative paper. You will also be asked to relate your selection to an issue in contemporary politics.

This exercise is about clarity and precision in *interpretation* and *writing*. Further instructions will be provided in class.

ASSIGNMENT #2 INTERPRETIVE PAPER (6-8 PAGES) FIRST DRAFT: 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. 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.

ASSIGNMENT #3 INTERPRETIVE PAPER (8-9 PAGES) FINAL DRAFT: 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 changes. It will require *revising* and *rewriting* significant portions of the paper. To further your argument, you will also introduce a comparative analysis drawing on a thinker from the second half of the course.

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 reasonable 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. 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 they are late (including weekends). If you need an 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
January 9 th	What is Political Theory?	None
January 11 th	Plato: Competing Conceptions of Justice	<i>The Republic</i> , (Editor’s Introduction viii-xvii & Book I 327 - 344d)
January 16 th Introduce Assignment #1	Plato: Competing Conceptions of Justice II	<i>The Republic</i> , (Book II 357-363)
January 18 th	Philosopher Kings & Queens: The Platonic Conception of Justice	<i>The Republic</i> , (Book IV 433-445e)
January 23 rd	Plato: Theory of Knowledge and Critique of Democracy	<i>The Republic</i> , (Books VII 514a-522)
January 25 th	Plato: Political Obligation and Moral Holism in Antiquity	<i>The Apology</i> <i>Crito</i>
January 30 th	Aristotle: Basic Concepts	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , (Book X, Ch. 9)
February 1 st	Aristotle: Political Animals	<i>Politics</i> , (Book 1, 1-7)
February 6 th Assignment #1 Due	Aristotle: Citizenship & The Middle Constitution	<i>Politics</i> , (Book III, 1-7 Book IV, 1-12)
February 8 th	From Antiquity to Modernity	None
February 13 th	Thomas Hobbes contra Aristotle	<i>Leviathan</i> , (Chapters 5, 6, 10-12)
February 15 th	Hobbes: The State of Nature & the Social Contract	<i>Leviathan</i> , (Chapters 13-17)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
February 20 th	Hobbes: Negative Freedom & Justice	<i>Leviathan</i> , (Chapters 21, 29, 30)
February 22 nd Introduce Assignment #2	How to Write a Political Theory Paper	None
February 27 th	Jean Jacques Rousseau: Is the State of Nature Really that Bad?	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> , (Part I)
February 29 th	Rousseau Contra Locke: The Origins of Property	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> , (Part II)
March 12 th	James Madison: The Rights of Persons & Property	<i>Federalist #10</i>
March 14 th Assignment #2 Due	John Stuart Mill: Liberalism	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter I)
March 19 th	J.S. Mill: On Free Speech	<i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter II)
March 21 st	J.S. Mill: Freedom as Autonomy	<i>On Liberty</i> , (Chapters III, IV) Optional: <i>On Liberty</i> (Chapter V)
March 26 th	Karl Marx: A Modern Aristotelian Social Theory?	<i>Theses on Feuerbach</i>
March 28 th	Marx: Communism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
April 2 nd	Edmund Burke: Conservatism	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> , (pp. 66-83)
April 4 th Introduce Assignment #3	How to Integrate Feedback: Revising & Rewriting a Research Paper	No reading
April 9 th	Simone de Beauvoir: Feminism	<i>The Second Sex</i> , (Introduction, Chapter 25, Conclusion)
April 11 th	Distributive Justice: Libertarianism	<i>Anarchy, State, & Utopia</i> , Robert Nozick (pp. 149-174)
April 16 th	Distributive Justice: Left-Liberalism	<i>A Theory of Justice</i> (revised edition), John Rawls (pp. 52-56, 118-119)
April 18 th	Deep Democracy	<i>On Democracy</i> , Joshua Cohen & Joel Rogers (Chapters 3-5)
April 23 rd	Animal Rights & The Boundaries of Political Community	<i>Justice for Nonhuman Animals</i> , Martha Nussbaum (excerpts)
April 25 th	The Role of Political Theory Today	None
Assignment #3 Due April 29th		