

POLS 3000: INTRODUCTION POLITICAL THEORY, FALL 2024

INSTRUCTOR

DR. JEREMY K.
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EMAIL

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OFFICE HOURS

MON/WED
1:45 – 2:30 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

September 13th

Assignment #2

October 16th

Assignment #3

December 3rd

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course serves as an introduction to political theory. It has two parts: historical and thematic. Topics in the first part of the course are presented chronologically to familiarize students not only with major concepts and themes in the field, but also its general development over time. Topics in the second part of the course, drawing on the ideas developed in the first, investigate themes in 20th and 21st century political theory. 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 today. Students should come away from the course having developed a more analytically precise vocabulary and conceptual toolkit with which to think & write about politics from a normative point of view.

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Leviathan, Hobbes (any edition)

On Liberty, John Stuart Mill (any edition)

Any other assigned material 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 *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 write a paragraph or two explaining the main ideas in your selection. This exercise is about clarity and precision in *interpretation* and *writing*. Further instructions will be provided in class.

ASSIGNMENT #2 INTERPRETIVE PAPER (7-8 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 (8-10 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/>

AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDING POLICY

In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course.

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 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
August 14 th	Introduction: Syllabus	None
August 16 th	Introduction: What is Political Theory?	None
August 19 th	Why Study the Ancients?	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Editor’s Introduction viii-xvii)
August 21 st	Plato: Competing Conceptions of Justice I	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book I 327 - 344d)
August 23 rd	Plato: Competing Conceptions of Justice II	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book II 357-363)
August 26 th	Plato: The Platonic Conception of Justice	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book IV 433-445e)
August 28 th	Plato: Theory of Knowledge & Critique of Democracy	<i>The Republic</i> , Plato (Book VII 514a-522)
August 30 th	How to Interpret Texts	None
INTRODUCE ASSIGNMENT #1		
September 4 th	Plato: Political Obligation & Moral Holism	<i>Crito</i> , Plato <i>Apology</i> , Plato
September 6 th	Guided Work Session	None
September 9 th	Aristotle: Basic Concepts	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , (Book X, Ch. 9)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
September 11 th	Aristotle: Political Animals	<i>Politics</i> , (Book 1, 1-7)
September 13 th ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE	Aristotle: Citizenship & The Middle Constitution	<i>Politics</i> , (Book III, 1-8 Book IV, 1-12)
September 16 th	From Antiquity to Modernity	None
September 18 th	Thomas Hobbes: Introduction	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 5, 6, 10-12)
September 20 th	Hobbes Contra Aristotle	None
September 23 rd	Hobbes: The State of Nature	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 13)
September 25 th	Hobbes: Any Social Contract	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 14-16)
September 27 th INTRODUCE ASSIGNMENT #2	How to Write a Political Theory Paper	None
September 30 th	Hobbes: Sovereigns & Sovereignty	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapter 18)
October 2 nd	Hobbes: Liberty & Justice	<i>Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (Chapters 21, 30)
October 4 th	Jean Jacques Rousseau: A Democratic Social Contract	<i>On The Social Contract</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Book I)
October 7 th	Jean Jacques Rousseau: To Deliberate or Not?	<i>On The Social Contract</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Book II)
October 9 th	Jean Jacques Rousseau: Is the State of Nature Really that Bad?	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Part I)
October 11 th	Rousseau Contra Locke: The Origins of Property	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau (Part II)
October 14 th	Peer Review Session	Come prepared to discuss a draft of your paper
October 16 th ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE	Hobbes contra Rousseau: Human Nature	
October 18 th	John Stuart Mill: Liberalism	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter I)
October 21 st	J.S. Mill: Free Speech	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter II)
October 23 rd	J.S. Mill: Freedom as Autonomy	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapters III, IV)
October 25 th	J.S. Mill: The Harm Principle	<i>On Liberty</i> , JS Mill (Chapter IV, V)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
October 28 th	J.S. Mill: On Colonialism	<i>Civilization</i> , JS Mill (pp. 119-129)
October 30 th	Karl Marx: A Modern Aristotelian Social Theory?	Selections on eLC
November 4 th	Karl Marx: Socialism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , Karl Marx
November 6 th INTRODUCE ASSIGNMENT #3	How to Respond to & Integrate Constructive Feedback	None
November 8 th	Edmund Burke: Conservatism	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> , Edmund Burke (pp. 66-83)
November 11 th	Progressivism contra Conservatism	None
November 13 th	Robert Nozick: Libertarianism	<i>Anarchy, State, & Utopia</i> , Robert Nozick (pp. 149-174)
November 15 th	John Rawls: Liberal Egalitarianism	<i>A Theory of Justice</i> (revised edition), John Rawls (pp. 52-56, 118-119)
November 18 th	Charles Mills: Liberalism & Racial Justice	<i>Racial Liberalism</i> , Charles Mills
November 20 th	Simone de Beauvoir: Feminism	<i>The Second Sex</i> , Simone de Beauvoir (Introduction, Ch. 25, Conclusion)
November 22 nd	Cohen & Rogers: Deep Democracy	<i>On Democracy</i> , Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers (Chapter 3 - 5)
November 25 th	Peer Review Session	Come prepared to discuss a draft of your paper.
December 2 nd	Martha Nussbaum: Animal Rights & Justice	<i>Justice for Nonhuman Animals</i> , Martha Nussbaum
December 3 rd ** (Fri. Class Schedule)	The Role of Political Theory Today	None

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

LIST OF DUE DATES

- Style Translation Exercise: [September 13th](#)
- Interpretive Paper First Submission: [October 16th](#)
- Interpretive Paper Final Submission: [December 3rd](#)