

## INSTRUCTOR

DR. JEREMY KINGSTON  
CYNAMON

## EMAIL

JKCYNAMON@UGA.EDU

## OFFICE HOURS

TUE/THURS  
12:30 - 1:45 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

### Reading Reflections:

At request of instructor

### Interpretive Paper #1:

March 13<sup>th</sup>

### Interpretive Paper #2:

April 30<sup>th</sup>

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course serves as a study of the major themes and developments in modern political philosophy/theory. These are presented not as historical artifacts, but as the ideas that continue to underpin the way we organize political life. In particular, the course focuses on modern understandings of history, freedom, social construction, individuality, reason, desire, culture, and nature. Students should come away from the course with an understanding of the genesis, strengths, and limits of some of our most important political concepts, 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.

**Note:** All work for the course *must* be submitted via eLC. No work will be accepted via email or any other medium.

## GRADING BREAKDOWN

### ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: 20%

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.) it is your responsibility to 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, it is *your responsibility* to set up a time to speak with me during the *first week* of the course to come up with alternative arrangements.

### READING REFLECTIONS (1-2 PAGES): 25%

You will write four reading reflections (1-2 pages double spaced, per) exploring the assigned reading(s). These will be *interpretive & evaluative*. You will be asked to summarize some key facet of the reading, and then offer your opinion about it. Reflections will require at least one direct citation to the relevant reading(s). Specific prompts to structure your reflections will be distributed in advance of the due date. I will announce due dates both in class and via eLC.

### INTERPRETIVE PAPER #1 (6-8 PAGES): 25%

You will write two interpretive 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. 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 (8-10 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.

### **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](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.
- 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 7 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction & Expectations	None
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	No Class	None
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	What is Modernity?	<i>What is Enlightenment?</i> , Immanuel Kant
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Wollstonecraft: Natural & Social Kinds	<i>On the Vindication of the Right of Woman</i> , (Introduction; Chapter 5, Section 1; Chapter 13, Section 6)
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thomas Hobbes: Social Atomism	<i>Leviathan</i> , (Chapters 5, 6, 10-12)
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hobbes: If the State Isn't Natural, Why do We Need it?	<i>Leviathan</i> , (Chapters 13-16, 21)
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Francis Bacon & Jeremy Bentham: Empiricism & Modern Science	<i>Novum Organum</i> , (pp. 11-24) <i>A Fragment on Government</i> , (Preface)
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph Waldo Emerson: Expressive Individualism	<i>Self-Reliance</i> , (full essay)
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	J.S. Mill: Freedom as Self-Expression	<i>On Liberty</i> , (Chapters I, III, Optional: IV)
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Immanuel Kant: Freedom as Self-Legislation	<i>Groundwork For the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , (excerpts)
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Friedrich Schiller: Freedom as Play	<i>On the Aesthetic Education of Man</i> , (Letters 3, 5, 6)
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	G.W.F Hegel: Introduction	Excerpts from <i>Early Theological Writings</i>
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hegel: The Master-Slave Dialectic	<i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , (paragraphs 178-196)
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hegel: Freedom as a Social Practice	Excerpts from <i>Philosophy of Right</i>
February 25 <sup>th</sup> Introduce Paper #1	Hegel: Freedom as a Social Practice Pt. II & How to Write a Political Theory Paper	Excerpts from <i>Philosophy of Right</i>
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Karl Marx: Social Theory	<i>Theses on Feuerbach</i> , (pp. 143-145 in M-E Reader)
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Marx: Alienation	<i>1844 Manuscripts: "Estranged Labor,"</i> (pp. 70-81 in M-E Reader)
March 13 <sup>th</sup> Paper #1 Due	Marx: Freedom as Conscious Mastery	<i>Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction</i> , (pp. 53-65 in M-E Reader)

DATE & ASSIGNMENTS	SUBJECT	READING
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Marx: Ideology & The Limits of Philosophy	<i>The German Ideology</i> , (pp. 146-155 in M-E Reader)
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Marx: Communism as High Modernism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , (full text in M-E Reader)
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Marxist Feminism	<i>Communism and the Family</i> , Alexandra Kollontai
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Does History Make Sense: Pangloss or Pessimism?	Excerpts from various sources on eLC
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Friedrich Nietzsche: What Does History Do For Us?	<i>On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life</i> , (full essay)
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Friedrich Nietzsche: The Limits of Modernity	<i>On Truth and Lying in a Nonmoral Sense</i> , (full essay)
April 8 <sup>th</sup> Introduce Paper #2	How to Write a (Better) Political Theory Paper & A Brief Introduction to Nietzsche's <i>Genealogy</i>	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , (Editors introduction, pp. 3-23)
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nietzsche: Good/Bad & Good/Evil	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , (pp. 3-23, Essay 1 Focus: Sections 1-17)
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nietzsche: Guilt & Bad Conscience	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , (Essay 2, Focus: Sections 1-17, 22-25)
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Nietzsche: Ascetic Ideals	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , (Essay 3, Focus: Sections 1, 11, 13, 27-28)
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nietzsche: Freedom as Self-Creation	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , (Sections 21, 23, 29) & <i>Will to Power</i> (Sections 890, 904, 928, 933)
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Modernity as an Unfinished Project	No reading
Paper #2 Due (4/30)		