

Politics and Political Inquiry
Political Science 250-001, Fall 2009
TR 8:00-9:15
307 Maybank Hall
Instructor: David Hinton

Objective: This course is an overview of the development of Political concepts and approaches to the study of politics. We will focus on primary texts by classical and modern political thinkers. Our aim is to improve our understanding of the relationship between political thought and its historical context and to expand our abilities to comprehend, evaluate and discuss complex political ideas.

Contact: You may get in touch with me 4 ways:

- Speak with me after class.
- Make an appointment: Office: 953-4936. Home: 406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu : Make the subject **PolInquiry** and I will see it
- My office: 26 Coming St., Room 301. Hours: Wed 12:30-1:30 p.m., Tues 11:15-12:15 p.m., and by appointment.

Texts: *Political Philosophy*, Steven M. Cahn, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005

Brave New World and *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley. New York: Harper-Perennial, 2004.

Class Policies: 1) Attendance: If you miss 8 classes you will receive a failing grade (WA). 2) Be on time. 3) Stay Awake. If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) Turn off audible electronic devices. Do not talk on the telephone or “text” in class. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

Grades: There will be 2 exams, an annotated bibliography and short talk, and a final exam. Exams will be short answer and essays. Your grade is assessed as follows:

- 20% each: Exams 1 & 2
- 20% Final Exam
- 20% Presentation and Annotated Bibliography
- 20% Class Participation

Grading Scale	A 94-100 A- 91-93
	B+ 88-90 B 84-87 B- 81-83
	C+ 77-80 C 73-76 C- 69-72
	D+ 66-68 D-61-66
	F 60 and below

Class Participation: *In addition to the assigned readings, each student must sign up for specific days to contribute to discussion.* Do it: a) Express yourself b) Read to know the topic c) Be prepared to answer questions thoughtfully d) Experience awake-ness.

Annotated Bibliography: One 20 source annotated bibliography and an accompanying short talk are required for this course. You *must* get approval of your topic from the instructor.

Your work must be original. You need to investigate your topic using books and *scholarly journals*. You must use at least 5 books and/or journal articles as principal sources. Cite everything. All papers need internal citations and a works cited page! Plagiarism results in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Council.

Fall 2009 Political Inquiry Calendar

Aug 25: Introduction: Political Thought: goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas; I will post a section of Frankfurt, *On Bullshit* to WebCT

Aug 27: Political Murder: read Camus, *Neither Victim Nor Executioner*:
www.ppu.org.uk/e_publications/camus1.html Follow the links. Read the whole text.

Amorality & Politics: Melian Dialogue from Thucydides' *Peloponnesian Wars*
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>

Sept 1: Civil Disobedience. Read Plato, "Defense of Socrates" and "Crito", pp 1-30 and King, "Letter from a Birmingham City Jail", pp 576-585

Sept 3: Justice: read Plato, *Republic*, pp 30-62

Sept 8: : "Noble Lies:" read Plato, *Republic*, pp 62-89

Sept 10: The Political Association and its Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, pp 129-152

Sept 15: Read Huxley, *Brave new World*, pp 5-115

Sept 17: Aristotle, *Politics*, pp 152-169

Sept 22: Types of Laws: Read Aquinas, *Summa Theologicae*, pp 169-184

Sept 24: Politics as Power: read Machiavelli, *The Prince*, pp 185-202 and *Discourses*, pp. 208-213

Sept 29: **Exam 1:** Thucydides to Aquinas

Oct 1: How Human Nature demands Civilization: read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp 214-221

Oct 6: Read Huxley, *BNW*, pp 115-231

Oct 8: Absolutism: Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 225-242

Oct 13: **Fall Break**

Oct 15: Legitimate Government: read Locke, 2nd *Treatise on Government*, pp 243-256

Oct 20: Tyranny & Usurpation: read Locke, 2nd *Treatise on Government*, pp 256-273

Oct 22: Nature: read Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, pp 274-292 & *The Social Contract*, pp 293-305

Oct 27: Liberty and Dictatorship: read Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp 293-320

Oct 29: Justice as fairness: read Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp 472-491

Nov 3: review

Nov 5: **Exam 2**: Machiavelli to Rawls

Nov 10: Social Tyranny: read Mill, *On Liberty*, pp 436-463

Nov 12: Individualism: read Mill, pp 463-471

Nov 17: Marx and Materialist History: read *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* and *The German Ideology*, pp. 406-422

Nov 19: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp 423-434

Nov 24: Presentations; **Annotated Bibliographies due**

Nov 26: Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 27: International Buy Nothing Day

Dec 1: Presentations

Dec 3: **Last Class**: Presentations and Review for final

Final Exam: Thursday Dec 10, 8-11 a.m.

