

Introduction to Political Thought
POLS 150-02 (CRN 15553), Fall 2016
MWF 11:00-11:50
316 Maybank Hall
Instructor: David Hinton

General Education Student Learning Outcome: Students apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of key thinkers and concepts; Students will compare thinkers on similar concept; Students will use concepts to analyze new situations; Students will explain the nature and value of normative thinking.

These outcomes will be evaluated through the 2nd Paper on applying concepts regarding social manipulation from *Brave New World* to U.S. Society in the 21st Century. 20% of grade

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. A primary goal is to develop the ability to compare different conceptions of a common subject (liberty, duty, justice, etc.). 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. Office Hours: Monday 12:30-1:30, Wednesday 8:45-9:45, and by appointment.

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Texts: Please purchase a copy of:

Political Philosophy, The Essential Texts, Cahn, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Brave New World and *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley. New York: Harper-Perennial, 2004. Or use the e-edition:

BNW: <http://www.huxley.net/bnw/>

BNWR: <http://www.huxley.net/bnw-revisited/index.html#subconscious>

I will provide additional materials via OAKS.

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 electronic devices. Do not text in class. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

Grades: There will be 2 exams, 2 short papers, a longer paper, and a final exam. Exams will be short answer and essays. Your grade is assessed as follows:

- 15 % each: Exams 1, 2, & Final Exam
- 10 % each: 2 short Papers
- 20 % *Brave New World* Paper
- 15 % 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:

Do it: a) Express yourself. b) Read to know the topic. c) Be prepared to ask and answer questions thoughtfully. d) Experience awake-ness.

Papers: Two short papers are required for this course. You *must* get approval of your topic from the instructor. A longer paper is also required.

Papers are to be comparative. I will elaborate and post instructions on OAKS.

Your work must be original. You need to investigate your topic using books and *scholarly journals*. 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.

College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the

course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

Students With Disabilities

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

Fall 2016 Political Inquiry Calendar

W August 24: Introduction and Syllabus Review; Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas

F August 26: Amoralty & Politics: Read Melian Dialogue from Thucydides' *Peloponnesian Wars*; Take notes. <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>

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

M August 29: Marinetti on Futurism; Mussolini on Fascism; Readings on OAKS

W August 31: Civil Disobedience---Read Plato, Introduction, "Defense of Socrates", and "Crito", pp. 1-30

F September 2: Civil Disobedience, 20th Century—Read King, “Letter from a Birmingham City Jail”, pp. 1117-1126.

M September 5: Justice: read Plato, *Republic*, pp. 31-66

W September 7: “Noble Lies:” read Plato, *Republic*, pp. 66-90

F September 9: Plato Wrap-up

M September 12: What are Politics? Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, pp. 137-156.

W September 14: Political Associations and their Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, pp. 181-203

F September 16: Aristotle, *Politics* wrap-up—read pp. 203-210

M September 19: Domestication of Political Realism--Read Machiavelli, *The Prince*, pp. 268-292

W September 21: Machiavelli 2; Discussion of Political Realism, then & now

F September 23: Reading TBA and Review for Exam 1

M September 26: Exam 1 -- Thucydides to Machiavelli

W September 28: Human Nature demands Civilization: Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 309-330

F September 30: Civilization demands Absolutism: Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 330-343

M October 3: Short Paper #1 Due; The Rest of Hobbes

W October 5: Nature and Property; Legitimacy & Tyranny: read Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, pp. 360-376

F October 7: Nature and Property; Legitimacy & Tyranny: read Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, pp. 396-393

M October 10: The General Will: read Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 437-449

W October 12: Republics: Law, Liberty and Dictatorship: read Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp. 449-464

F October 14: Read Virginia Held, *Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View*, pp. 1010-1023

M October 17: Justice as fairness: read Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 911-932

W October 19: Read Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, pp. 932-939

F October 21: Review for Exam 2

M October 24: Exam 2

W October 26: Social Tyranny and Liberty of Opinion: read Mill, *On Liberty*, pp. 746-775
Read Iris Marion Young, *Five Faces of Oppression*, pp. 1054-1072

F October 28: Read Iris Marion Young, *Five Faces of Oppression*, pp. 1054-1072
Mill on Individualism, *On Liberty*, pp.775-794

M October 31: Mill on Individualism, *On Liberty*, pp.775-794

W November 2: Hayek, Economic Libertarianism—Read *The Road to Serfdom*, pp. 857-870

F November 4: Short Paper #2 Due; Economic and Individual Liberty

M November 7: Fall Break—No Class
Tuesday the 8th: VOTE!

W November 9: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 714-726; + Watch link-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUI4yfABE4>

F November 11: Read Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, pp. 841-856

M November 14: *Brave New World* (OAKS)

W November 16: *Brave New World* (OAKS)

F November 18: *Brave New World* (OAKS) Social Control in a Free Society

M November 21: Long Paper due – BNW and You

W November 23: No Class

F November 25: International Buy Nothing Day

M November 28: Read Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, pp. 825-840

W November 30: Read Frankfurt, *On Bullshit*

F December 2: Read Charles Taylor: “Atomism”

M Dec 5: Last Day of Class; Review for Final

Final Exam: Monday, May 4, 8-11 a.m.