

Introduction to Political Thought
POLS 150-02 (CRN 21264)
Express I Spring 2018
TR 2:00-4:45, 316 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. 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. Quickly.

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

- Speak with me after class.
- Make an appointment: Office: 953-6102. Home: 406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm.
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu : Make the subject **POLI 150** and I will see it.
My office: 114 Wentworth St., Room 102. Office Hours: Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30, Thursday 11:30-1:00, and by appointment.

Texts: Please purchase:

Political Philosophy, The Essential Texts, Steven Cahn, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Buy it. Bring it to class.

On Bullshit, Harry Frankfurt. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

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 3 exams, 2 short papers, and an annotated bibliography. Exams will be short answer and essays. Your grade is assessed as follows:

- 15 % each: Exams 1, 2, & Final Exam
- 15 % each: 2 short Papers
- 15 % *Brave New World* Paper
- 10 % 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- 61-65
 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. An annotated bibliography is also required. I will elaborate with 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.

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.

Spring 2018 Political Inquiry Calendar

T January 9: Introduction and Syllabus Review; Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence;
 Political Science: discuss Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I. You can't skim this material. You will want to Take Notes.

R January 11: Political Realism--Amorality & Politics: Read Chapter XVII "Melian Dialogue" from **Thucydides'** *Peloponnesian Wars*: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm> Take notes.

Ethical Politics--Morality & Politics: read Albert **Camus**, *Neither Victim Nor Executioner*: www.ppu.org.uk/e_publications/camus1.html Follow the links. Read the whole text. Take notes.

T January 16: Domestication of Political Realism: read **Machiavelli**, *The Prince*. Take notes.
Bullshit: read Harry **Frankfurt**, *On Bullshit*. Take notes.
Radicalizing Masses: read Hannah **Arendt**, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Take notes.

R January 18: Civil Disobedience, 4th C. BCE---Read **Plato**, Introduction, “Defense of Socrates”, and “Crito”. Take notes.
Civil Disobedience, 20th C. CE: Read ML **King**, “Letter from a Birmingham City Jail”. Take Notes.

T January 23: Paper # 1 Due; Justifying a ruling class--“Noble Lies:” read Plato, *Republic*, Books III-V. Take notes.
Political Associations and their Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III. Take Notes.

R January 25: Exam 1; and reading TBA

T January 30: Human Nature Demands Civilization; and Civilization demands Absolutism: read Thos. **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*, chapters 6, 13-18, and 29.

R February 1: Paper # 2 Due; Nature and Property: read John **Locke**, 2nd *Treatise on Government*, chapters I-VIII. Take notes.

T February 6: The General Will: read **Rousseau**, *The Social Contract*, Books I & II;
And Virginia **Held**, *Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View*. Take notes.

R February 8: Social Tyranny and Liberty of Opinion: read **Mill**, *On Liberty*, Chapters 1 & 2
Read Iris Marion **Young**, *Five Faces of Oppression*. Think about it while you take notes.

T February 13: Exam 2; The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl **Marx**, *The Communist Manifesto*; + Watch link-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KU14yfABE4>

R February 15: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl **Marx**, *The Communist Manifesto*; + Watch link-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KU14yfABE4> ; Individual Liberty, Social, and Economic Regulation: read **Mill**, *On Liberty*, chapters 3-5.

and Economic Libertarianism: read F.A. **Hayek**, *The Road to Serfdom*

T February 20: Justice as Fairness: read John **Rawls**, *A Theory of Justice*.

R February 22: Last Day of Class; Paper # 2 Due; Read Kwame Anthony **Appiah**, *The Ethics of Identity*. Take notes.

!! Final Exam: Monday, February 26th !!

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>