

POLI 150.003 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT

Philip H. Jos/ Spring 2018

TTh 12:15-1:40 Maybank 307

Office Hours: M 2:00-3:30, T 2-3:00 TH 8:30-9:30 & by appointment.

Off: 26 Coming Street Room 202 Ph: 953-5704 Em: josp@cofc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on political philosophy, a method of thinking about politics and political activity that centers on perennial normative questions, such as the tension between individual freedom and social order, justice, and which forms of government and representation are best. You will encounter some of the most fundamental concepts in the study of politics and examine how they have been developed by different theorists in different times and circumstances.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the course are for students to:

- Appreciate the nature and value of normative thinking
- Demonstrate knowledge of key political thinkers and concepts
- Develop the skill of comparing thinkers with respect to key concepts and questions
- Develop the skill of analyzing and explaining texts in political philosophy
- Appreciate the relevance of political philosophy to contemporary politics
- Demonstrate the ability to apply texts and key concepts to new issues and situations.

CONDUCT OF THE COURSE

The course will be organized around four basic questions:

- What is possible through politics?
- What fundamental characteristics define humans? What are the implications for organizing political life?
- What is the relationship between individual rights, property, and human freedom?
- What is justice?

In each of the four sections we will use quizzes, class discussions, small group discussions, and presentations by the instructor to develop an understanding of key readings and concepts

REQUIRED READING

Cahn, Steven M. 2015. *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*. Oxford University Press.

All other readings listed in this syllabus are available on OAKS. Additions may be made to existing reading assignments but these will be relatively infrequent and generally consist of shorter newspaper or magazine articles. In addition, I strongly recommend that you read a daily newspaper, preferably the *New York Times*. Student rates offer a discount and the *Times* is available on the web at www.nytimes.com.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

	Pts/100
Examination #1	15
Examination #2	20
Examination #3	20
Final Exam (#4)	20

Quizzes (20) (drop lowest 5 grades)	10
Contemporary Relevance Assignments (3, drop lowest grade)	10
Attendance/Preparation/Participation	5
Extra Credit Opportunities 2 points max	

Examinations (4) will consist of essay questions, discussion questions, terms and other more narrowly focused questions. No one will be permitted to take an exam if they arrive more than 30 minutes late. *Make-up exams* will only be given if the student: notifies me of the difficulty at least an hour before class, agrees to take a make-up not later than *three* days after the regularly scheduled exam, and presents a *written, bonafide excuse*.

Contemporary Relevance Assignments (3, drop the lowest grade). Towards the end of each of the first three sections of the course you will be asked to find a current news story or editorial that raises a concept, idea, or argument that has been explored by the political philosophers we have read in that section of the course. Briefly summarize the news story and explain how a philosophical concept or argument issue relates to the issues and events that the news story describes. Be as specific and as detailed as you can and provide citations or quotations to the political thinker or thinkers you are discussing. (Approximate length: between $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page and 1 page, and attach a copy, or provide a link, to the news story or editorial).

Quizzes (20, drop the lowest 5 grades). For almost every class where reading is assigned there is a quiz, 20 quizzes in all. I will drop the lowest 5 quiz grades, which means that, if you choose, you only have to complete three quarters of the quizzes (15). A better idea is to complete all the quizzes and I will drop the 5 lowest grades. *All quizzes will be posted 48 hours prior to the class where the reading is due, and closed at NOON on the day of class.*

Class attendance, preparation, and participation will be extremely important to success in this course. Some of the material we will cover is likely to be unfamiliar to you, many of the writers developed their perspectives in different times and cultural contexts, and you will be expected to grapple with ideas that cannot usually be understood after a quick read. Reading and interpreting original works by political philosophers, using texts and other commentaries on political ideas and theorists, participating in class discussion, listening carefully to class presentations, taking good notes on assigned readings and class presentations, and completing written work are all necessary to meet the objectives of the course. Be sure to *turn off cell phones and any other devices that might be disruptive*.

Extra Credit Opportunities: Three potential extra credit opportunities are described in the course outline (see ECO). They will generally require short summary and comment papers (a page or less) on the event. I will announce additional opportunities as they arise.

Grading Scale/Special Needs: 92 and above =A, 90-92=A minus, 88-89=B plus, 83-87=B, 80-82=B minus, 78-79=C plus, 73-77=C, 70-72=C minus, 68-69=D plus, 63-67=D, 60-62=D minus, 59 and below=F. If you are in the SNAPS program or have other *special needs* please let me know during the first week of class. Deadlines and expectations are subject to change but adequate notice of such changes will be given.

Writing Lab I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, call 843.953.5635 or visit <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/>.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible for academic dishonesty will receive an XF for the course, indicating failure due to academic dishonesty. Unauthorized collaboration is a form of cheating and research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or part for any assignment without obtaining prior permission from the professor. Plagiarism includes the verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of another's work, borrowing without acknowledging a source, paraphrasing without acknowledgement, and allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his or her own. For the complete Honor Code see http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/general_infor/studenthandbook.html.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. What is possible through politics?

Aristotle (384-322 BC) and Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)

1/9: An Overview

1/11: Aristotle

*Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book One (Cahn, pp. 142-146).

Quiz 1

*Aristotle, *The Politics* Book Seven, (Cahn, pp. 211-222).

1/16 Aristotle

*Aristotle, *The Politics*, Bk Three, ch. 3, 4 (Cahn, pp. 183-186).

Quiz 2

*Aristotle, *The Politics*, excerpts from books Four, Five, Eleven, Twelve (Cahn 200-210).

1/18: Machiavelli

*N. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 5-9 (Cahn, pp. 275-280)

Quiz 3

1/23 Machiavelli

*N. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 15-19, 21, 25, 26 (Cahn, pp. 282-292).

Quiz 4

*N. Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, bk. 1 ch. 1 (Cahn, pp. 296-298).

*D. Held "From Civic Life to Civic Glory" (On Machiavelli's *Discourses on Titus Livy*) (OAKS)

*Study Guide Out

1/24 (Wednesday noon) Contemporary Relevance Assignment 1 Due in OAKS dropbox

1/25 Contemporary Relevance Assignment 1 Discussion

1/30 EXAMINATION 1

2. What fundamental characteristics define humans?

What are the implications for organizing political life?

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and J.J. Rousseau (1712-1778)

2/1 Hobbes: The State of War

*Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Pt. One, Ch. 11, 13, 14 (Cahn, pp. 316-317; 319-324).

Quiz 5

2/6 Hobbes: The Social Contract

*Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Pt. Two, Ch. 17, 18 (Cahn, pp. 330-336).

Quiz 6

2/8 Hobbes: Powers of the Sovereign and Liberty

*Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Pt. 2, Ch. 21 (Cahn, pp. 330-340).

Quiz 7

2/13 Rousseau: Human Nature

*Rousseau, *Second Discourse on the Origin & Foundations of Inequality Among Men* (Cahn, 422-437).

Quiz 8

2/15 Rousseau: Politics

*Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Bk 3 Ch. 1, Bk. 4 Ch. 1, 2, 8 (Cahn 449-452; 458-463).

Quiz 9

*James Madison, *Federalist Paper #10* (4) (OAKS).

*Jonathan Wolff, On Rousseau's General Will and His Critics, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, pp. 77-84. (OAKS).

2/20 NO CLASS

2/22 Rousseau: The General Will and Freedom

*Jonathan Wolff, On Rousseau's General Will & His Critics, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, pp. 84-90. (OAKS). **Quiz 10**
*Study Guide Out

2/26 (Monday noon) Contemporary Relevance Assignment 2 Due in OAKS dropbox

2/27 Contemporary R66elevance Assignment 2 Discussion

3/1 EXAMINATION 2

3. What is the Relationship Between Individual Rights, Property, and Human Freedom?

John Locke (1632-1704) and Karl Marx (1818-1883)

ECO: Adam Smith Week (March 5-9) Lecture Dr. Bart Wilson day and time TBA

3/6 Locke: Natural Rights

*Robert Filmer's *Patriarcha*. An Excerpt (OAKS) (3).

Quiz 11

*Locke's *Second Treatise* Bk. 2 (Cahn, pp. 365-370)

3/8 Locke: On Property and the Social Contract

*Locke, *Second Treatise*. Bk. 2 (Cahn, pp. 370-378)

Quiz 12

*Locke, *Second Treatise*, Additions to Cahn (OAKS) (2)

*Locke, *Letter on Toleration* (Cahn, pp. 393-400).

3/13 Locke: On Consent

*Locke, *Second Treatise*. Bk. 2 (Cahn, pp. 378-393).

Quiz 13

3/15 Marx: Human Nature and Freedom

*Karl Marx's *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, excerpts (Cahn, pp. 701-708).

Quiz 14

3/20 and 3/22 NO CLASS: Spring Break

3/27 Marx: Critique of Rights and Private Property

*Marx, "On The Jewish Question," excerpts (OAKS) (5).

Quiz 15

*Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (Cahn, pp. 714-721).

ECO: March 29 (Thursday Afternoon) Political Science Convocation of Majors

3/29 Marx: Revolution and the Durability of Liberal Capitalism

*Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (Cahn, pp. 721-726).

Quiz 16

*Study Guide Out

4/2 (Monday noon) Contemporary Relevance Assignment 3 Due in OAKS dropbox

4/3 Contemporary Relevance Assignment 3 Discussion

4/5 EXAMINATION 3

4. What is Justice? (Social Contract Theory: Challenges and Alternatives)

John Rawls (1921-2003) Jurgen Habermas (1929-) Martha Nussbaum (1947-)

4/10 John Rawls (1921-2003): A Theory of Justice

*Joshua Cohen on John Rawls (Cahn, pp. 911-916).

Quiz 17

4/12 John Rawls: Principles of Justice

*Jonathan Wolff, On Rawls, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, pp. 157-168. (OAKS)

Quiz 18

*John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, (Cahn, pp. 916-932).

ECO: April 13 (Friday, 9-12:30 Research Panels) William V. Moore Student Research Conference

4/17 Is a Social Contract Based on an Overlapping Consensus Possible?

*Jurgen Habermas, "Secularism's Crisis of Faith: Notes on a Post-Secularist Society," *New Perspectives Quarterly*. (OAKS)

*Martha Nussbaum (2013) "A Problem in the History of Liberalism," pp. 1- 16 in *Political Emotions: Why Love Matters. for Justice* (Harvard) (OAKS).

Quiz 19

4/19 Ancient and Contemporary Challenges to the Social Contract Idea: Plato (427-347 BC) and Feminist Perspectives

*Virginia Held, "A Non-contractual Society: A Feminist View," (Cahn, pp. 1006-1023)

*Plato, *The Republic*, (Cahn, p. 59 (@ #368) through p. 64 (stop @ #375).

Cahn, p. 76 @ #434) through p. 78 (stop @ "Book V").

Quiz 20

*Study Guide out

Reading Day April 24

4/26 (Thursday Noon) FINAL EXAM