Objective: This course is an overview of the development of political ideas 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.

OAKS: OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be posted regularly.

Privacy Notice - Recording of Classes (via ZOOM):

Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

Contact: You may get in touch with me 4 ways:
• Speak with me after class.
• Make an appointment: Office: 953-6102 – I doubt I’ll be there. Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 pm
• Email: hintond@cofc.edu : Make the subject Thought and I will see it. My office: JC Long Building, Room 228. Virtual Office Hours: Monday 12-1, Wednesday 10-11, and by appointment.

Texts: Please purchase: a notebook


Brave New World and Brave New World Revisited, Aldous Huxley. New York:

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. It’s distracting to be late in person or online. 3) Stay Awake. Do not attend class while lying down. 4) Turn off other electronic devices. Class requires all of your attention while in session. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

Grades: There will be 2 exams, 3 short papers, online discussions, 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: 3 short papers
- 15% online discussions
- 10% Class Participation

Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>A–</td>
<td>91-93</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
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<td>B–</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C–</td>
<td>69-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 and below</td>
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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: 3 short papers are required for this course.

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.
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. (phone: 843.953.1431) Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity:

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, 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 misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of 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 status indicator 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.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at:

Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.
Fall 2020 Political Thought Calendar

T August 25: Introduction and Syllabus Review - Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas; diverse opinion & mutual respect.


T September 1: Political Murder: read Camus, Neither Victims Nor Executioners: https://adamgomez.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/camus-neither-victims-nor-executioners.pdf Read the whole text. Take notes.


Th September 10: 1st paper due; Justice: read Plato, Republic, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material! You will want to take notes.

T September 15: Justifying a ruling class--“Noble Lies:” read Plato, Republic, Books III-V. Take Notes.

Th September 17: What are Politics? read Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, pp. 137-165. You can’t skim this material! Take Notes.


Th September 24: exam 1 review; Aristotle, Politics wrap-up—read pp. 203-210. Take Notes

T September 29: Exam 1 -- Thucydides to Aristotle


Th October 29: Review for Exam 2

T November 3: Exam 2: Social Contracts & Critics


Th November 12: The Revolution is Inevitable: read Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 714-726 Take Notes

T November 17: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: re-read Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 714-726 Take Notes


Th November 26: Thanksgiving Day
F November 25: International Buy Nothing Day


Th December 3: Last Day of Class: Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 8, 8-10 a.m.

As recent events have shown, this schedule may change! I hope not.