Introduction to Political Thought  
POLS 150-02 (CRN 21155), Spring 2019  
MW 2:00-3:15  
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 paper on applying concepts regarding social manipulation from *Brave New World* to U.S. Society in the 21st Century. 15% 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.
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu  Make the subject Inquiry and I will see it.
  My office: 114 Wentworth St., Room 102. Office Hours: Monday 12:30-1:30, Wednesday 12:30-1:30, and by appointment.

Texts: Please purchase a copy of:


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, 4 short papers, 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 % *Brave New World* Paper
- 10 % Class Participation

Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<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>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</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: Four short papers are required for this course. You *must* get approval of your topic from the instructor.

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. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.
Spring 2019 Political Inquiry Calendar

**W January 9:** Introduction and Syllabus Review; Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas: diverse opinion & mutual respect

**M January 14:** Amorality & Politics: Read the Melian Dialogue from *Thucydides’ History of the Peloponnesian War*; Take notes.  http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm


**M January 21:** MLK Day—No Class—Free Someone

**W January 23:** Civil Disobedience, 20th Century—Read King, “Letter from a Birmingham City Jail”. Take Notes.

**M January 28:** Justice: read Plato, *Republic*, Books I and II. You will want to Take notes.


And Political Science: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material. You will want to Take Notes


**M February 11:** Paper #1 due; exam 1 review; Domestication of Political Realism--Read Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Take notes.

**W February 13:** Exam 1 -- Thucydides to Machiavelli

**M February 18:** Bullshit!: read Harry Frankfurt, *On Bullshit*. Take notes;


M March 4: Legitimacy & Tyranny: read John Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, the rest. Take notes.


March 18 & 20: Spring Break


W March 27: Exam 2: Social Contracts & Critics


M April 8: Read Iris Marion Young, *Five Faces of Oppression*. And additional link on OAKS. Think about it while you take notes.


M April 15: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 714-726 Take Notes.; + Watch link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUl4yfABE4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUl4yfABE4)

W April 17: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: re-read Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Tuesday April 22: Last Day of Class: Liberation Theology: Listen to Bob Marley, *Natty Dread*. Take notes. Links on OAKS,

Review for Final

Final Exam: Friday, April 26th, 12-3 p.m.

Print this.

These are the official words of the College of Charleston:

“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 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 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 should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission— is a form of cheating. 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](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)