Introduction to Political Thought
POLS 150-04 (CRN 21984), Spring 2020
TR 1:40-2:55 - Maybank Hall 115
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.

**Contact:** You may get in touch with me 4 ways:
- Speak with me after class.
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu: Make the subject **PolInquiry** and I will see it.

Come to my office: 114 Wentworth St., Room 102.

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30; Thursday 12:15-1:15, and by appointment.

**Texts:** Please purchase: a notebook


I will provide additional materials via links and 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, 3 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
- 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- 61-66
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: 3 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.

Political Science Citation: http://polisci.cofc.edu/documents/12policitationguide.pdf

If you give me half a paper, I will give you half a grade. You need to meet the minimum requirements of the assignment (page length, number and quality of sources, etc.)

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 2020 Political Thought Calendar

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

T January 14: Amorality & Politics: Read “Melian Dialogue” from Thucydides’ Peloponnesian Wars: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm Take notes.

TH January 16: 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.


T January 28: 1st paper due; Justice: read Plato, Republic, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material. You will want to take notes.

TH January 30: Justifying a ruling class--“Noble Lies:” read Plato, Republic, Books III-V. Take notes.


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

TH February 6: Political Associations and their Forms: read Aristotle, Politics, Book III. Take notes
And two types of Justice: read Aristotle, Politics, Books IV and V. Take notes.

T February 11: Review for Exam 1


T February 18: Exam 1 – Thucydides, Camus, King, Plato, Aristotle

TH February 20: Bullshit!: read Harry Frankfurt, On Bullshit. Take notes.


TH March 5: Legitimacy & Tyranny: read John Locke, 2nd Treatise on Government, the rest

TH March 12: Republics, Law & Liberty, Dictatorship; read Rousseau *Book III*. Exam 2 Review

T March 17: Spring Break

TH March 19: Spring Break

T March 24: Exam 2 – Machiavelli, Arendt, Frankfurt, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau


TH April 5: De facto oppression: Read Iris Marion *Young*, *Five Faces of Oppression*. Think about it while you take notes.


TH April 9: Political Economy: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl *Marx*, *The Communist Manifesto*

T April 14: Political Economy: BNW Paper Due; The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl *Marx*, *The Communist Manifesto*

TH April 16: Justice as Fairness: read John *Rawls*, *A Theory of Justice*

T April 21: Last Day of Class – read EO Wilson, “Is Humanity Suicidal?” (OAKS); review for exam

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, April 28, 4-7 p.m. – Huxley, Mill, Marx, Rawls, Wilson

Print this.
These are the 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