

Introduction to Political Thought
POLS 150-03 (CRN 12263), Fall 2017
TR 12:15-1:30
307 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.
- Make an appointment: Office: 953-6102. Home: 406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu : Make the subject **PolInquiry** and I will see it.
My office: 114 Wentworth St., Room 10X. Office Hours: Monday 3:15-4:15, Tuesday 10:45-11:45, and by appointment.

Texts: Please purchase a copy of:

Political Philosophy, The Essential Texts, Cahn, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

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

And a paper or e-copy of *Brave New World* and *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley. New York: Harper-Perennial, 2004.

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 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 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: 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.

Fall 2017 Political Inquiry Calendar

T August 22: Introduction and Syllabus Review; Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas: diverse opinion & mutual respect

Th August 24: Amoralism & Politics: Read Melian Dialogue from Thucydides' *Peloponnesian Wars*; Take notes. <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>

T August 29: 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.

Th August 31: Civil Disobedience---Read Plato, Introduction, "Defense of Socrates", and "Crito", pp. 1-30. Take notes.

T September 5: Civil Disobedience, 20th Century—Read King, "Letter from a Birmingham City Jail", pp. 1117-1126. Take Notes.

Th September 7: Justice: read Plato, *Republic*, pp. 31-66. Take Notes.

T September 12: "Noble Lies:" read Plato, *Republic*, pp. 66-90. Take Notes.

Th September 14: What are Politics? Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, pp. 137-156. Take Notes.

T September 19: Political Associations and their Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, pp. 181-203; Aristotle, *Politics* wrap-up—read pp. 203-210. Take Notes.

Th September 21: Paper #1 due; exam 1 review; Domestication of Political Realism--Read Machiavelli, *The Prince*, pp. 268-292. Take Notes.

T September 26: Exam 1 -- Thucydides to Machiavelli

Th September 28: Read Frankfurt, *On Bullshit* Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, pp. 841-856. Take Notes.

T October 3: Human Nature demands Civilization: Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 309-330. Take Notes.

Th October 5: Civilization demands Absolutism: Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 330-343. Take Notes.

T October 10: Nature and Property; Legitimacy & Tyranny: read Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, pp. 360-376. Take Notes.

Th October 12: Legitimacy & Tyranny: read Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, pp. 376-393. Take Notes.

T October 17: Fall Break

Th October 19: Paper #2 Due; The General Will & Republics: Law, Liberty and Dictatorship: read Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp. 437-464. Take Notes.

T October 24: Read Virginia Held, *Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View*, pp. 1010-1023. Take Notes.

Th October 26: Review for Exam 2: catch up.

T October 31: Exam 2: Social Contracts & Critics

Th November 2: Social Tyranny and Liberty of Opinion: read Mill, *On Liberty*, pp. 746-775

T November 7: Paper #3 Due; The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 714-726 Take Notes.; + Watch link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUI4yfABE4>

Th November 9: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: re-read Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, pp. 714-726 Take Notes

T November 14: Read Iris Marion Young, *Five Faces of Oppression*, pp. 1054-1072. Take Notes.

Th November 16: Read *Brave New World (OAKS)*. Take Notes.: Social Control in a Free Society

T November 21: *Brave New World Revisited (OAKS)* Take Notes.: Propaganda

Th November 23: Thanksgiving Day & F November 25: International Buy Nothing Day

T November 28: Paper # 4 due; Justice as fairness: read Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 911-932. Take Notes.

Th November 30: Last Day of Class; liberation theology/the folly of racism: listen to Marley, *Natty Dread (OAKS)*. Take Notes. Review for Final

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 12, 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>