

**Introduction to Political Thought**  
**POLS 150-04 (CRN 22207), Spring 2017**  
**MWF 11:00-11:50**  
**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Paper on applying concepts regarding social engineering from *Brave New World* to U.S. Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. 20% 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: 953-4936. Home: 406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm.
- Email: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) : Make the subject **POLI 150** and I will see it.  
My office: 26 Coming St., Room 301. Office Hours: Monday 2-3, Wednesday 2-3, and by appointment.

**Texts:** Please purchase:

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

*Brave New World* and *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley. New York: Harper-Perennial, 2004. Or use the e-edition:

BNW: <http://www.huxley.net/bnw/>

BNWR: <http://www.huxley.net/bnw-revisited/index.html#subconscious>

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

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 3 exams, 2 short papers, and an annotated bibliography. 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- 61-65
	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:** Two short papers are required for this course. An annotated bibliography is also required.

I will elaborate with 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.

**College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, 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 grade 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. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

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>

### **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 2017 Political Inquiry Calendar**

**W January 11:** Introduction and Syllabus Review; Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas

**F January 13:** Amoral & Politics: Read Melian Dialogue from Thucydides' *Peloponnesian Wars*: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm> Take notes.

**M January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: Free Someone—no class**

**W January 18:** Morality & Politics: read Camus, *Neither Victim Nor Executioner*: [www.ppu.org.uk/e\\_publications/camus1.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/e_publications/camus1.html) Follow the links. Read the whole text. Take notes.

**F January 20:** Civil Disobedience---Read Plato, Introduction, “Defense of Socrates”, and “Crito”. Take notes.

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

**W January 25:** Justice: read Plato, *Republic*, Books I and II. You will want to Take Notes.

**F January 27:** Justifying a ruling class--“Noble Lies:” read Plato, *Republic*, Books III-V. Take notes.

**M January 30: Paper # 1 Due;** Plato, *Republic*, Book IX. Take Notes

**W February 1:** Political Science: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material. You will want to Take Notes.

**F February 3:** Political Associations and their Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I and II. You will want to Take Notes.

**M February 6:** Justice: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Books IV and V. Take Notes.

**W February 8:** Domestication of Political Realism: read Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

**F February 10:** Machiavelli: Discussion of Political Realism, then & now. Reading TBA

**M February 13:** *Brave New World (OAKS)* Think about it. And take notes. How does this compare to Plato’s Republic?

**W February 15:** *Brave New World (OAKS)* Think about it. And take notes. How does this reflect contemporary society?

**F February 17: Review for Exam 1**

**M February 20: Exam 1 --** Thucydides to Machiavelli

**W February 22:** Propaganda, Distraction, & Control: read **Huxley**, *BNW Revisited*, Chapter TBA.

**F February 24:** Human Nature demands Civilization: read Thomas **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*, Part I. Take notes.

**M February 27:** Civilization demands Absolutism: read Thos. **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*, Part II.

**W March 1:** Bullshit: read Harry **Frankfurt**, *On Bullshit*. Take notes.

**F March 3:** Nature and Property: read John **Locke**, *2<sup>nd</sup> Treatise on Government, chapters I-VIII*. Take notes.

**March 6 -10: Spring Break**

**M March 13:** Legitimacy & Tyranny: read John **Locke**, *2<sup>nd</sup> Treatise on Government*, the rest.

**W March 15:** Virginia **Held**, *Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View*. Take notes.

**F March 17: Paper #2 Due; Review for exam 2**

**M March 20: Exam 2: Huxley to Held**

**W March 22:** The General Will: read **Rousseau**, *The Social Contract*, Books I & II

**F March 24:** Republics: Law, Liberty and Dictatorship: read **Rousseau**, Book III

**M March 27:** Justice as Fairness: read John **Rawls**, *A Theory of Justice*

**W March 29:** Social Tyranny and Liberty of Opinion: read **Mill**, *On Liberty*, Chapters 1 & 2

**F March 31:** Read Iris Marion **Young**, *Five Faces of Oppression*. Think about it while you take notes.

**M April 3: BNW Paper Due.** Please read John **Rawls**, “Political Liberalism”

**W April 5:** Individual Liberty, Social, and Economic Regulation: read **Mill**, *On Liberty*, chapters 3-5.

**F April 7:** The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl **Marx**, *The Communist Manifesto*; + Watch link-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUI4yfABE4>

**M April 10:** The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl **Marx**, *The Communist Manifesto*; + Watch link-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUI4yfABE4>

**W April 12:** Economic Libertarianism: read F.A. **Hayek**, *The Road to Serfdom*

**F April 14:** A heated discussion about politics, economics, & liberty.

**M April 17: Paper # 3 Due:** read John **Dewey**, “On Democracy”.

**W April 19:** Read Hannah **Arendt**, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Take notes.

**F April 21:** Read Kwame Anthony **Appiah**, *The Ethics of Identity*. Take notes.

**M April 24:** Liberation: Listen to Bob **Marley**. Links on OAKS, and reading TBA

**W April 26:** **Last Day of Class**; Review for Final

**Final Exam: Friday, April 28, 12-3 p.m.**