

Introduction to Political Thought
POLS 150-04 (CRN 14246), Fall 2022
MWF 9:00-9:50
316 Maybank Hall
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.

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.

If we have to go remote because of quarantine:

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: none. Home: 843-406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm
- **Email:** hintond@cofc.edu : Make the subject **PolInquiry** and I will see it
My office: JC Long Building, Room 2.

Office Hours: Tuesday 4-5, Thursday 4-5, and by appointment.

Texts: Buy a notebook!

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

Press, 2015.

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

Brave New World and *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley. New York: Harper-Perennial, 2004.

I will provide additional materials via OAKS.

Class Policies: 1) Attendance: If you miss 10 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 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) Read to know the topic. b) Be prepared to ask and answer questions thoughtfully. c) Express yourself. 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*. All papers need internal citations and a works cited page! Cite everything. Cite every fact, opinion, analysis, summary, paraphrasing, and quotation. Not doing so (by intent or by inattentiveness) is plagiarism. This can

result in a failing grade for a paper. Using the work of others as your own is also plagiarism. Plagiarism results in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Council.

Use the Cloud. “My computer died is no longer a valid excuse.

Use Spell-Check. There is no reason for typos in your paper.

Read your own work for grammar, clarity, & syntax. Don’t turn in “word salad”.

Fall 2022 Political Inquiry Calendar

W August 24: Introduction and Syllabus Review; Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas: diverse opinion & mutual respect

F August 26: Amorality & Politics: Read “Melian Dialogue” from **Thucydides’ Peloponnesian Wars**: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm> Take notes.

M August 29: 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.

W August 31: Civil Disobedience---Read **Plato**, Introduction, “Defense of Socrates”, and “Crito”, pp. 1-30. Take notes

F September 2: Civil Disobedience, 20th Century—Read **King**, “Letter from a Birmingham City Jail”. Take Notes.

M September 5: Labor Day

W September 7: Justice: read **Plato**, *Republic*, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material. You will want to take notes.

F September 9: Paper #1 due (posted o OAKS by 8 p.m.; Justifying a ruling class--“Noble Lies:” read **Plato**, *Republic*, Books III-IV. Take notes

M September 12: Gender Equality and... **Plato**, *Republic*, Books V and IX. Take notes.

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

F September 16: Political Science: read **Aristotle**, *Politics*, Books I and II. You can't skim this material. You will want to Take Notes

M September 19: Political Associations and their Forms: read **Aristotle**, *Politics*, Book III. Take notes

W September 21: two types of Justice: read **Aristotle**, *Politics*, Books IV and V. Take notes.

F September 23: Review for Exam 1

M September 26: Exam 1 – Thucydides, Camus, King, Plato, Aristotle

W September 28: Domestication of Political Realism--Read Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

F September 30: Fragility of Democracy: read Hannah **Arendt**, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, pp. 841-856. Take Notes.

M October 3: Bullshit!: read Harry **Frankfurt**, *On Bullshit*. Take notes.

W October 5: discussion

F October 7: Human Nature demands Civilization: read Thomas **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*, Part I. Take notes.

M October 10: Civilization demands Absolutism: read Thos. **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*, Part II

W October 12: Nature and Property: read John Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government* chapters I-VIII. Take notes.

F October 14: Hmm.

M October 17: Virginia Held, *Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View*. Take notes.

W October 19: Legitimacy & Tyranny: read John Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*, the rest

F October 21: Short Paper #2 Due

M October 24: The General Will: read Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books I & II

W October 26: Republics, Law & Liberty, Dictatorship; read Rousseau *Book III*.

F October 29: read Mill, *On the Subjection of Women*.

Review for Exam 2

M October 31: Exam 2: Frankfurt, Arendt, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Held

W November 2: Social Tyranny: read John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 1

F November 4: Liberty of Opinion: read John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 2

M November 7: Fall Break

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

W November 9: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*; + Watch link--

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUI4yfABE4>

F November 11: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl **Marx**, *The Communist Manifesto*

M November 14: Social **Conditioning:** *Brave New World (OAKS)*

W November 16: Social **Control** in a Free Society: read Aldous **Huxley**, *Brave New World (OAKS)*. Take Notes

F November 18: Read Kwame Anthony **Appiah**, *The Ethics of Identity*. Take notes.

M November 21: We'll need to catch up.

W November 23: Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving Break; Thursday the 24th: Thanksgiving Day

F November 25: International Buy Nothing Day

M November 28: BNW Paper Due; Liberation Theology: Listen to Bob **Marley**, *Natty Dread*. Take notes. Links on OAKS

W November 30: Justice as Fairness: read John **Rawls**, *A Theory of Justice*

F December 2: reading TBA

M Dec 5: Last Day of Class: review for exam

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 12, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Print this.

I may use scheduled Storm Days as needed.

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:

<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>.

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.