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.

Technology notice. The College of Charleston requires each student to have a laptop computer.

Do not attend class on your phone. It is an inadequate platform for the needs of learning environment and lacks the required security.

You will not be admitted to Zoom sessions if your i.d. comes up as a phone number. I will not reply to real-time emails or messages about anything during class.

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 (ir-)regularly.

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.
- Email: hintond@cofc.edu: Make the subject Inquiry and I will see it.
My office: JC Long Building, Room 228.

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30; Thursday 9:30-10:30, and by appointment.

Required Texts: Please purchase: a notebook


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. Lateness is a distraction and even more so when we’re virtual. 3) Stay Awake. If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) Turn off or close all of the distractions on your computer! Commit to just being 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
- 15 % each: 3 short Papers
- 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
Papers: 3 short papers are required for this course. You **must** get approval of your topic from the instructor.

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.

I will elaborate and post instructions on OAKS.

**You cannot forget when your paper is due. This is the reminder.**

Class Participation:

a) Read to know the topic. b) Express yourself. c) Be prepared to ask and answer questions thoughtfully. d) Prepare yourself for class – act like you are going to school, because you are: get up; use the facilities; eat, & drink your beverage of choice; get dressed for school; have your book and notebook at hand; sit up! You will have a better experience if your camera is on & you are not lying in the dark.

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 2021 Political Thought Calendar

T January 12: Introduction and Syllabus Review - Political Thought and its goals; what counts as evidence; relevance of political ideas; diverse opinion & mutual respect;

…and what counts as class participation.


TH January 28: Justice: read Plato, *Republic*, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material. You will want to take notes.

T February 2: Justifying a ruling class--“Noble Lies:” read Plato, *Republic*, Books III-V. Take notes.

TH February 4: Political Science: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I and II. You can’t skim this material. You will want to Take Notes

1st paper due Thursday the 4th @ 8 p.m.

T February 9: Political Associations and their Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III. Take notes
TH February 11: And two types of Justice: read Aristotle, Politics, Books IV and V. Take notes.

T February 16: Domestication of Political Realism--Read Machiavelli, The Prince.

And Exam 1 Review

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


T March 2: review and study day – no class!

TH March 4: review and study day – no class!

T March 9: Nature and Property: read John Locke, 2nd Treatise on Government, chapters I-VIII. Take notes

TH March 11: Legitimacy & Tyranny: read John Locke, 2nd Treatise on Government, the rest.


TH March 18: Republics, Law & Liberty, Dictatorship; read Rousseau Book III.

Exam 2 Review.

2nd Paper Due Saturday March 20 @ 8 p.m.

T March 23: Exam 2 – Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Held, Rousseau

T March 30: Bullshit!: read Harry Frankfurt, On Bullshit. Take notes.


3rd Paper Due Saturday April 10th @ 8 p.m.

T April 13: Political Economy: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: read Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto

TH April 15: Political Economy: The Revolution is Inevitable, so help it along: re-read Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto

T April 20: Justice as Fairness: read John Rawls, A Theory of Justice

W April 21: Last Day of Class. Oppression: Read Iris Marion Young, Five Faces of Oppression, pp. 1054-1072. Take Notes. And Final Exam review!

Final Exam: Tuesday, April 27th, 10:30-12:30 – synchronous, online.

Do not schedule any other activity at this time. Not air travel, moving out of the dorm or any other (non-life-threatening) excuse is a valid reason to miss the exam at the scheduled time.

Print this. As recent events have shown, this schedule may change! I hope not.
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.

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)