

PSC 270 Introduction to Political Theory (Writing Intensive)
Fall 2008; TR 9:30 – 10:45
Graham 203

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Office: 224 Graham Building
Office Hours: MTWR 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and by appointment at Tate Street Coffee
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Course Description:

Political philosophy is the study of the fundamental questions of public life. It covers topics such as human nature, the proper relationship between the state and individuals, the proper relationship between the state and social groups, and the rights and duties that accrue to citizens. In this course, we will examine some of the key concepts of political theory and the ways in which they have been framed and have developed from Plato's time to the present. The course is not meant to be comprehensive. Rather, you should leave this class with a basic understanding of some of the key writings of a handful of political thinkers from the Western tradition.

With the work of each theorist we read this semester, we will use the following four questions as the framework to guide our discussion and analysis: What is the scope of the state?; What is the justification for the authority of the state?; What are the ends or purposes of the state?; and What are the means (techniques) the state is to use in achieving its goals? With this framework in mind, you should have a strong grasp by the end of this term of the essential questions asked and various answers posed by eminent political thinkers regarding authority, justice, power, equality, the state and liberty.

Note Well:

1. **This course is writing intensive.** This means that you will be doing a lot of writing this term, produced in response to many different kinds of writing assignments, both formal and informal.
2. **This course is reading intensive.** This means that many of the reading assignments are dense and/or lengthy. You will need to set aside at least 3 hours of reading time for every hour of class time. You are expected to do the assigned readings *before* the class in which they will be discussed.
 - b. You may need to review key passages in the assigned readings after we have discussed them as well.
 - c. You should also get into the habit of taking reading notes to keep track of the main ideas and important quotes from the assignments.
3. If you are not prepared to commit to a significant amount of reading, writing, and classroom discussion for this course, then you should not enroll in the course this term.
4. You do not have to agree or disagree with any of the theorists we will examine. You DO have to *understand* them.

Goals of the Course (Student Learning Objectives):

There are two primary goals for this course: to introduce you to the historical development of key political ideas in Western thought and to develop your critical thinking skills foster a spirit of inquiry so that you will be challenged to raise and discuss provocative questions with regards to political theories and realities..

To achieve the first goal, we will read and discuss certain representative thinkers of classical and modern political thought. To develop your critical thinking skills, you will be asked to analyze the key concepts we will discuss (liberty, freedom, equality, power, justice, etc.) during class discussions and in your written work. (The specific requirements for each of these activities are discussed after the schedule of readings.)

With these two primary goals in mind, we will work to help you meet the following student learning objectives for this course. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Analyze the significance of time and place for the emergence of particular political ideals.
- Define key political concepts such as power, authority, justice, equality, and liberty, for yourself and for each of the theorists we read.
- Analyze the relationship between particular definitions of these concepts and the types of states that embody those ideals, considering specifically the relationship between the ends or purposes of the state and the techniques used to achieve those ends.
- Apply the theories we read to understand the nature of, and potential solutions to, current political problems.

Required Books:

Plato. Republic. (1992, 2nd Edition). Translated by G. M. A. Grube. Revised by C. D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company.

Niccolò Machiavelli. Selected Political Writings. (1994). Edited and Translated by David Wootton. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company.

John Locke. Second Treatise on Government. (1980). Edited by C. B. MacPherson. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company.

John Stuart Mill. *Utilitarianism, On Liberty, Considerations on Representative Government*. (1993). Geraint Williams, ed. Rutland, VT: The Everyman Library.

Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels. *The Marx/Engels Reader*. (1978) Robert Tucker, ed. New York: W. W. Norton.

Foucault, Michel. *The Foucault Reader*. (1984) Paul Rabinow, ed. New York: Pantheon.

Additional Readings on e-reserve, which is accessible through the course blackboard site. These readings are required and are marked with a double asterisk (**) in the schedule of readings below.

Course Requirements & Their Weight In Your Final Grade:

- In-Class Writing and Homework Assignments: 10%
- Exam 1: 10%
- Exam 2: 10%
- Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- First Draft of Final Paper: 10%
- Second Draft of Final Paper: 10%
- Final Paper (Final Draft): 25%
- Class Participation: 15%

Use this handy list to keep track of your grades. Or not:

RP 1 _____	RP 6 _____	Exam 1 _____
RP 2 _____	RP 7 _____	Exam 2 _____
RP 3 _____	RP 8 _____	Bibliography _____
RP 4 _____	RP 9 _____	Draft 1 _____
RP 5 _____	RP 10 _____	Draft 2 _____

Schedule of Class Meetings and Readings:

Tuesday, Aug. 26: Course Introduction.

Thursday, Aug. 28: Plato: Republic
Book I (pp. 1 – 31);
Book II (pp. 32 – 59).

Tuesday, Sept. 2: Plato: Republic
Book 3 (pp. 60-69, up to line 392d);
Book 3 (pp. 86, at 410c – 93);
Book 4 (pp. 94 – 121).

Thursday, Sept. 4: Plato: Republic
Book 5 (pp. 122 – 156).
Recommended: Book 6 (pp. 165, at 492 – 177, up to line 504).

Tuesday, Sept. 9: Plato: Republic
Book 7 (pp. 186 – 195, up to line 523);
Book 7 (pp. 204 at line 532 – 212);
Book 10 (pp. 279, at 608b – 292).

Thursday, Sept. 11: Niccolò Machiavelli: *Discourses on Livy*
Introduction (pp. 81 – 82);
Book One, Preface & chapters 1-8 (pp. 82 – 107);
Book One, chapters 55 & 58 (pp. 150 – 158);
Book Two, Preface and chapters 1-2 (pp. 158 – 171).
Optional Reading: Wootton's "Introduction": pp. xi – xiv, end of ¶3, pp. xxx, ¶2 – xxxvii.

Tuesday, Sept. 16: Machiavelli: *Discourses on Livy*
Book One, chapters 9 – 12 (pp. 107-119);
Book One, chs. 16 – 18, 21, & 26 (pp. 121 – 132);
Book One, chapters 29, 32, 34, 42 – 43, 46, 49 – 50, & 53 (pp. 133-149).

- Thursday, Sept. 18: Machiavelli: The Prince
 Preface and Chapters 1-10 (pp. 5 – 35);
 Chapters 12-26 (pp. 38 – 80).
 Optional Reading: Wootton’s “Introduction”: pp. xiv, start of ¶4 – xxx, end of ¶2.
- Tuesday, Sept. 23: Finish Machiavelli Discussion. No Assigned Readings.
- Thursday, Sept. 25: John Locke: Second Treatise of Government
 Chapters 1-7 (pp. 7 – 51).
 Optional Reading: Macpherson’s “Introduction”: pp. vii – xix.
- Tuesday, Sept. 30: Locke: Second Treatise of Government
 Chapters 8-15 (pp. 52 – 91).
 Optional Reading: Macpherson’s “Introduction”: pp. xix – xxi.
- Thursday, Oct. 2: Locke: Second Treatise of Government
 Chapters 16-19 (pp. 91 – 124).
- Tuesday, Oct. 7: FIRST EXAM
- Thursday, Oct. 9: Mill: On Liberty
 Chapters 1-2 (pp. 69 – 90, end of first ¶);
 Chapter 2 (pp. 102, at last ¶ - 105);
 Chapter 2 - middle of 4 (pp. 113 – 153);
 Chapter 5 (pp. 178 – 181).
- Tuesday, Oct. 14: Mill: On Liberty
 Continue discussion from Thursday. No additional readings.
- Thursday, Oct. 16: Final Paper Instruction & Library Research Day
 ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY
 Meet in the CITI lab (Jackson Library, First Floor)
- Tuesday, Oct. 21: FALL BREAK. NO CLASS MEETING.
- Thursday, Oct. 23: Mill: On Representative Government
 Chapters 2-4 (pp. 198 – 245);
 Chapter 6 (pp. 261 – 276).
 Optional Reading: Williams’ “Introduction” (pp. xxxvi – xxxviii.)
 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE—BEGINNING OF CLASS
- Tuesday, Oct. 28: Mill: On Representative Government
 Chapter 8 (pp. 299 – 317).
- Thursday, Oct. 30: Marx; Readings TBA
 FINAL PAPER DRAFT #1 DUE—BEGINNING OF CLASS
- Tuesday, Nov. 4: Marx; Readings TBA
- Thursday, Nov. 6: Marx; Readings TBA
- Tuesday, Nov. 11: Marx; Readings TBA
- Thursday, Nov. 13: Foucault; Readings TBA
- Tuesday, Nov. 18: Foucault; Readings TBA
- Thursday, Nov. 20: Foucault; Readings TBA
- Tuesday, Nov. 25: Foucault; Readings TBA
 FINAL PAPER DRAFT #2 DUE—BEGINNING OF CLASS
- Thursday, Nov. 27: THANKSGIVING BREAK. NO CLASS MEETING.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2: SECOND EXAM
- Thursday, Dec. 4: Course Wrap Up. No Assigned Readings.

Thursday, Dec. 10: FINAL PAPER DUE not later than 11:00 a.m.

Short Writings: A total of ten written response pieces, plus five in-class writings. Response pieces are one page MAXIMUM; anything longer will be penalized. Response pieces consist of a short summary of the arguments of the one of the week's readings, followed by your response. These should be intelligent and reflect that you have carefully read the material. You may ask questions you would wish to have addressed in class. These will be due on Tuesdays on the readings for that day. At times, I may assign particular questions for you to address in your response pieces. Note that you do not have to turn in a response piece every week, but you do have to turn in a total of 10. I may at times assign an in-class response piece.

Exams: In-class, short essay format which will ask you to explain and analyze the major themes of the works we have read. You will need to bring a blue book to the exam.

Final Paper: The final paper is designed to help you learn how to construct and analyze arguments in political philosophy. This assignment will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the course material and your critical thinking skills. The paper will be graded for both content and form. Thus, the quality of your analysis will be the most important factor in determining your grade, but your demonstration of writing skills will directly affect your grade as well.

Your final paper will consist of a series of op-ed pieces where you take on the persona of the theorists in addition to a summary essay that pulls together the main themes of the op-eds and gives you a chance to reflect on the essay topic based on what you've learned this semester. The topic of the final paper will be a contemporary political or public policy issue of your choice that you will research in order to write informed essays.

To receive high marks on the final paper, not only must you write a polished and sophisticated final product, but you must also demonstrate that you have written thoughtful early drafts, and that subsequent drafts directly respond to feedback received on these early drafts. You will turn in your rough drafts with the final paper. For all papers, please use 12 point Times font with reasonable margins. Include a cover page for the final paper, but not the drafts.

Note well: Failure to complete both early drafts will result in a zero for the final paper grade. Revising is a critical part of the final paper project.

Annotated Bibliography: Because the final paper requires you to do some outside, independent research, and because the final paper requires multiple drafts, you will need to begin your research for the paper fairly early in the semester. To make sure that you are finding and using a range of relevant and useful materials for your topic, you will be required to prepare and submit an annotated bibliography before you submit any paper drafts. To enable you to find good source material, and to help you properly construct your annotated bibliography, you will spend one class period at Jackson Library with Ms. Lynda Kellam, the political science data services and government information reference librarian at Jackson Library. NOTE VERY WELL: Attendance at this class meeting is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in a 25% reduction in your class participation grade.

Class Participation: When you don't read in advance, don't engage with the ideas expressed by the writers, the instructor, and the other students, or when you attend class only sporadically, both your learning and your classmates' learning is greatly inhibited. Additionally, class becomes really boring. So you are expected to show up, to pay attention, and to prepare the readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned. As many of the readings are quite challenging, I strongly encourage you to take notes as you read and bring them to class for reference during discussions. I take attendance and note participation daily. Obviously, if you aren't here, you can't participate. That said, just showing up and staying awake isn't participation. Participation includes paying attention, asking questions, contributing to class discussion in a way that demonstrates that you have completed the reading, responding politely to your classmates' questions, etc. Uninformed discussion will hurt, not help, your grade.

Honor Code: I expect all students in this course to abide by both the letter and spirit of the university's academic integrity policy. Violations of the university honor code will be prosecuted. The full text of the Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at: <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Policy/HonorPolicy.html>. Specifically pertinent to this course is the following infraction: "Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." Do NOT engage in plagiarism. If caught, you will fail (receive a zero for the assignment). If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please see me immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: While it is very easy to plagiarize off of the internet and other sources, it is just as easy to find where you plagiarized from. Typically, if I suspect plagiarism, it takes me less than a minute to find the source.