

POLI 2060 Intro to Political Theory, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-2:50pm, Coates Hall 214, Spring 2021

Instructor:

Jake Harvey

Email: Jharv34@lsu.edu

Office Hours

Friday: 11-1pm, also schedule by appointment

Stubbs Hall 308

Introduction

This course will serve introduce critical analysis of noteworthy texts of political philosophy, as well as the opportunity for you to investigate and articulate your own political beliefs. This course will hone your ability at critical reading, being able to comprehend and dissect what the texts are arguing for. Even when the authors don't come right out and state an opinion, this class should help you "read between the lines". The thinkers we intend to investigate have had a significant impact on philosophy and politics and should help guide you into knowing more about your beliefs and where they originate from.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Quizzes 15%

Midterm : 20%

Essay on Chosen thinker: 20%

Final Essay: 30%

Class Participation

Attendance is expected in the class. You are allowed two unexcused absences, followed by deduction from your class participation grade if any absence is unexcused. If you have five unexcused absences, then you'll receive no credit for class participation. If there needs to be an excused absence, make sure to send me an email to get confirmation on approval.

On top of this, it will be important for students to communicate their thoughts and analysis of the text as much as possible. It's important to understand your perspective as it is equally important for you to understand and respect the perspective of your fellow classmates.

Quizzes

This is simply a way for me to “check the pulse” of the class to make sure everyone is doing the reading. There will be pop quizzes throughout the semester though there will also be five quizzes that will serve as “mini essays”. These will essentially be writing prompts of at least two pages double spaced that will answer a prompt that I will provide. Since there will be in person quizzes make sure to have paper and something to write with when entering class.

Midterm

The format will involve 10-12 quotes from the thinkers we have been reading in which you will need to identify the name of the philosopher that made the quote, the name of the book or dialogue of the quote, the context the quote was made in and the significance of the quote as it relates to the text. Midterm will be on March 2nd.

Essay of Chosen Thinker

There is a possibility that you were hoping to read a particular philosopher in this class but don't see his or hers name on the list. To make up for it, I am providing a list of books that you can read in addition to the other books. You will select a work and draft a five-page paper on the book, providing your own analysis on the work and how it compares to other thinkers we are reading. The reasoning for this is twofold. One, I want to see you apply your powers of critical analysis to a text, especially as we have worked to develop it over the semester. Second, it's an opportunity for you to investigate thinkers that you may be drawn to and be able to read them as well. Many of the thinkers available can be found at the library or online in pdfs, such as [EMT - Texts \(earlymoderntexts.com\)](http://EMT-Texts.earlymoderntexts.com). I'll send out a list of books you can write about, and a response will be needed by February 9th. If you wish to pick a different book, discuss it with me and I'll let you know if it works or not, though the book you wish to write on should be 100-150 pages long. The paper will be due April 15th

Final Essay

This will involve writing two responses, one a 4-5-page paper, the other response will be 1-2 pages. This will be a take home assignment and turned in on Moodle. It will involve answering two out of three possible prompts that I will provide that will ask you to compare and critique different thinkers that we have read this semester. The final is due by April 29th at 5pm.

Grading Scale

A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)

B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)

C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)

D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)

F (below 60%)

Required Books

- Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates*, ISBN: 9780801485749
- Aristotle, *Politics*, ISBN: 9780226921846
- Dante, *Monarchy*, ISBN: 9780521567817
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ISBN: 9780226500447
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ISBN: 9780915144860
- David Wootton, *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* (Hackett Classics), ISBN: 9780872206557
- Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, ISBN: 9780140447576

Readings on Moodle

I will post some readings on Moodle. It would be preferred that you print them out, but you can for class use a laptop or smart pad if needed.

University Policies

University education is a great privilege, offered to all with the ability and the willingness to learn, without obstacles based on race, sex, or other aspects of personal identity. Please consult linked LSU policies. I will emphasize that plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity and will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves LSU's plagiarism policies.

<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/academicintegrity/index.php>

University Statement on Integrated Learning

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

COVID Guidelines and Precautions

COVID-19 Statement We remain under pandemic conditions and as such the following precautions will be enforced throughout the semester

1. If sick or feeling sick, send an email and do not attend class. Some form of proof should be provided as well.
2. Wear face mask
3. Cough or sneeze in elbow
4. Make sure to complete your daily symptom checker
5. If feeling sick or concerned, make sure to go to LSU's Student Health Center
6. Wipe down desk before leaving

Week 1: January 12th & 14th

12th: Syllabus day

14th: Aristophanes: The Cloud (pgs. 115-146)

Week 2: January 19th & 21st

19th: Finish the clouds (pgs. 146-176)

21st: Plato: Euthyphro & Apology (pgs. 41-78)

Week 3: January 26th & 28th

26th: Plato: Apology & Crito (pgs.78-114)

28th: Aristotle Book I (pgs. 1-24)

Week 4: February 2nd & 4th

2nd: Socrates mini-essay due on the 2nd by 11:59pm

2nd: Aristotle Book 2 (pgs. 25-61)

4th: Aristotle Book 3 (pgs. 62- 96)

Week 5: February 9th & 11th

9th Decision for chosen thinker essay

9th: Aristotle Book 4 (pgs. 97-128)

11th: Aristotle Book 5 (pg. 129-170)

Week 6: February 16th & 18th

Mardi Gras Holiday on Tuesday, read for Aristotle (pay close attention to Book 7)

18th: Discuss Book 6-8 (pgs. 170-238)

Week 7: February 23rd & 25th

23rd: Discuss Book 6-8 (pgs. 170-238)

25th: Dante Book I (pgs. 3-29)

25th: Aristotle Mini Essay due before midnight

Week 8: March 2nd & 4th

2nd: Aristotle Mini Essay due before midnight

2nd: Dante Book II (pgs. 30-62)

4th: Dante Book III (pgs. 63-94)

Machiavelli Dedicatory Letter to Chapter VIII (pgs. 3-38)

Week 9: March 9th & 11th

9th: Midterm

11th: Dante mini essay due by 11:59pm

11th: Machiavelli Dedicatory Letter to Chapter VIII (pgs. 3-38)

Machiavelli Chapter IX- XVII (pgs. 38-71)

Week 10: March 16th 18th

16th: Machiavelli Chapter XIX-XXVI (pgs. 71-107)

18th: Locke: Chapter I-VI (pgs. 7-42)

Locke: Chapter VII- XIII (pgs. 42-83)

Week 11: March 23rd & 25th

23rd: Machiavelli mini essay due by 11:59pm

23rd: Locke: Locke: Chapter VII- XIII (pgs. 42-83)

25th: March 25th: Make up for February 18th (Read Chapter XV-XIX (pgs. 88-124)

Week 12: March 30th & April 1st

30th: Federalist and Anti-Federalist: Pages 326-337 (Constitution) and Pages 3-24 (Address of the Minority of the Pennsylvania Convention).

1st: Locke Mini Essay due by 11:59pm

1st: Federalist and Anti-federalist: Federalist# 1,10, 14-15, 39 in Wootton pgs. 140-143, 167-174, 179-190, 225-231

Week 13: April 6th & 8th

6th: : Federalist # 47-52 in Wootton, pp. 231-254

8th: Brutus #15, The Federalist # 55,57,62,70,78; pages 92-96, 254-268, 275-289

Week 14: April 13th &15th

13th:Marx Introduction Chapter 7-8 (pg. 74-119)

15th: Marx Introduction chapter 9-11 (pgs. 120-176).

Essay of Chosen thinker due by the 15th 11:59pm

Week 15: April 20th & 22nd

20th: Marx Communist manifesto (pg. 218-258)

22nd:Finishing Marx Preparing for Finals

Final: April 29th 5pm