

Political Science 2060: Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2005

Class Time: T Th, 1:40-3:00 pm

Location: 211 Tureaud Hall

Instructor: Geoffrey Plauché
Stubbs Hall, #324
E-mail: gplauc1@lsu.edu

Office Hours: M 12:30-2 pm, T Th 3-4 pm, or by appointment.

Course Objectives: Political theory is concerned with the fundamental questions of public life. It encompasses political ethics, which defines the proper role of discourse and the use of force in man's relationships with other men as well as with man's relationship to the State. Consequently, political theory is concerned with such themes as liberty, justice, war, the proper functions of the State, religion, and so on. It is also concerned with the idea of the best regime, with the various different types of government, their institutions, and how and why they do and should function.

Though this is a course in political theory, throughout there will be an emphasis on issues overlapping with perennial and contemporary themes in international relations, particularly the relationship between man, the state, and war. This course will be divided into three parts. In the first, we will discuss the ancient perspective on political philosophy, focusing on the political thought of Plato and Aristotle. In the second part, we will discuss modern alternatives. The radical break between modern and ancient political philosophy will be emphasized, in particular in what ways the moderns have lowered and raised the bar for political philosophy. The political thought of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and the Federalists and Anti-Federalists will be explored. The third part will more explicitly explore the relationship between man, the state, and war by exploring the political thought of statist and anarchist socialists (Marx, Lenin, Mao, and Bakunin), individualist anarchists (Thoreau), classical liberals (Bastiat, Bourne), and radical libertarians (Radnitzky, Rothbard), and contrasting them with the thinkers explored in parts one and two.

Required Texts:

Plato, *Great Dialogues of Plato*, trans. W.H.D. Rouse, (Signet Classic, 1999).
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Martin Ostwald, (Prentice Hall, 1999).
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Harvey Mansfield, Jr., (U. of Chicago Press, 2nd Ed.).
John Locke, *Political Writings of John Locke*, David Wootton, ed., (Hackett Publishing Co., 2003).
Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, et al., *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*, David Wootton, ed., (Hackett Publishing Co., 2003).
Frederic Bastiat, *The Law*, (Foundation for Economic Education).
Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays*, (Dover Publications, 1993).
Internet sources: See below.

Course Requirements:

1. Pop Quizzes: There will be 12 quizzes on the readings given randomly throughout the semester. The 2 lowest scores will be dropped, so that 10 quizzes will count towards the final grade. The quizzes will be worth **5 points each**, for a **total of 50 points** towards the final grade. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, so arrive promptly.
2. Exams: There will be 3 exams, including the final exam, given during the semester. The final exam will not be cumulative, except for one extra cumulative essay question. **The 1st and 2nd exams will be worth 50 points each; the final exam will be worth 70.**

Extra Credit Paper (Optional):

Students have the option of writing a 5 page paper for a **potential 15 extra credit points** towards their final grade. The paper should be double-spaced with page numbers at the bottom; Times New Roman, size 12, font; 1-1.25 inch margins; and proper citation. The paper should carefully evaluate and analyze the respective related arguments from the readings on Hobbes and Locke, and Rothbard, in light of the following essays: Alfred G. Cuzan, "Do We Ever Really Get Out of Anarchy?" (http://www.mises.org/journals/jls/3_2/3_2_3.pdf) and Hans-Hermann Hoppe's "Government and the Private Production of Defense," especially parts I-III (<http://www.mises.org/etexts/defensemyth.pdf>).

Grading Scale:

A	198-220
B	176-197
C	154-175
D	132-153
F	0-131

Attendance Policy:

Attendance for this class is mandatory. There will be no make-ups of any kind unless the student provides appropriate documentation of illness, legal obligation, sanctioned school event, or other extraordinary situation.

Syllabus

Tu., 1/18 Introduction

I. What is Political Philosophy: The Ancient Perspective

Th., 1/20 Plato, *Apology*.

Tu., 1/25 Plato, *Republic*, Books I & II.

Th., 1/27 Plato, *Republic*, Books III & IV.

Tu., 2/1 Plato, *Republic*, Books V-VII.

Th., 2/3 Plato, *Republic*, Books VIII & IX.

Tu., 2/8 Mardi Gras Holiday

Th., 2/10 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I, II, & X.

Tu., 2/15 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books III-V.

Th., 2/17 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book VI.

Tu., 2/22 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VII-IX.

Th., 2/24 Aristotle, *Politics*,
Books I: 1-2; II: 1-5; III: 1-13; IV: 1-2, 8-9, 11-12; V: 1-6; VII: 13-15.
(<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>)

Tu., 3/1 1st Exam

Introduction to Part II

II. Lowering and Raising the Bar: Modern Alternatives

Th., 3/3 Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Tu., 3/8 Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Th., 3/10 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, required chapters 13-21; recommended: 22-31.
(<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>)

Tu., 3/15 Locke, 2nd *Treatise on Government*.

Th., 3/17 Locke, 2nd *Treatise on Government*.

Tu., 3/22 Spring Break

Th., 3/24 Spring Break

Tu., 3/29 The Constitution and its Opponents, *Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*,
Introduction; the Constitution and Bill of Rights; Penn. Minority; Cato 4 & 5;
Centinel 1; Brutus 6, 11, & 12.

- Th., 3/31 Principles of Constitutional Design & Republicanism, *Federalist Papers*,
Numbers 1, 2, 10, 15, 37, 39, 51, 55, 57, & 63.
- Tu., 4/5 Separation of Powers & Federalism, *Federalist Papers*,
Numbers 6-9, 14, 23, 33, 47-49, & 51.
- Th., 4/7 Limited Government & Constitutionalism: Liberty Under Law, *Federalist Papers*,
Numbers 24, 28, 70, 78, & 83-85.
- Tu., 4/12 2nd Exam
Introduction to Part III

III. Man, the State, and War: Liberty vs. Power

- Th., 4/14 Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*; w. selections from Lenin and Mao.
(<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>)
- Tu., 4/19 Mikhail Bakunin, “Ethics: Morality of the State,” “What is Authority?” & “Stateless
Socialism: Anarchism.”
(<http://flag.blackened.net/daver/anarchism/bakunin/bakunin.html>)
- Th., 4/21 Bastiat, *The Law*.
- Tu., 4/26 Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience.”
- Th., 4/28 Randolph Bourne, “War is the Health of the State” & “The War and the
Intellectuals.”
(<http://www.bigeye.com/rbourne.htm>)
- Tu., 5/3 Extra Credit Paper Due
Gerard Radnitzky, “Is Democracy More Peaceful than Other Forms of Government?”
(<http://www.mises.org/etexts/defensemyth.pdf>)
- Th., 5/5 Murray N. Rothbard, *The Ethics of Liberty*, chapters 22-25.
(<http://www.mises.org/rothbard/ethics/ethics.asp>)
Alberto Mingardi and Carlo Stagnaro, “Tolkien vs. Power.”
(<http://www.mises.org/fullstory.aspx?control=899>)
- Th., 5/12 **Final Exam: Thursday, May 12th, 12:30-2:30 pm, at 211 Tureaud Hall.**