

Political Science 2060: Introduction to Political Theory

Fall 2005

Class Time: MWF 8:40-9:30 am

Location: 104 Tureaud Hall

Instructor: Geoffrey Allan Plauché
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Office Hours: MWF 9:40-10:30 am, M 1:40-2:30 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.

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 shift our focus to two important ideas upon which our country was founded: *social contract theory* and *constitutional republicanism*. 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 Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Montesquieu will be explored. In the third part, we will explore how social contract theory and constitutional republicanism were put into practice in the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the writings of the Federalist and Anti-Federalists. We will also explore important critiques of these ideas by the Anti-Federalists, nineteenth-century individualist anarchists Henry David Thoreau and Lysander Spooner, twentieth-century economist and political philosopher Murray Rothbard, and contemporary Aristotelian philosopher Roderick Long.

Required Texts:

Plato, *Great Dialogues of Plato*, trans. W.H.D. Rouse, (Signet Classic, 1999).

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Martin Ostwald, (Prentice Hall, 1999).

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).

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Masters and Masters, ed. and trans. (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1978).

Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays*, (Dover Publications, 1993).

Lysander Spooner, *The Lysander Spooner Reader*, George H. Smith, ed. (San Francisco: Fox & Wilkes, 1992).

Internet and Blackboard sources: See below.

Course Requirements:

1. Pop Quizzes: There will be 13 quizzes on the readings and in-class lectures given randomly throughout the semester. The 3 lowest scores will be dropped, so that 10 quizzes will count toward the final grade. The quizzes will be worth **5 points each**, for a **total of 50 points** toward the final grade. The quizzes may 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 have the same format as the first two exams and will not be cumulative, except that it will include an additional essay question that will require you to integrate what you have learned about the underlying theme of the course. **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** toward 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 include 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, "Government and the Private Production of Defense," especially parts I-III (<http://www.mises.org/etexts/defensemyth.pdf>).

Grading Scale:

To calculate your final grade, simply add up all the points from your quizzes (not counting the three lowest scores that are dropped), the exams, and the extra credit paper (if you wrote one). Compare your point total to the scale below for your final letter grade. Note: The extra credit could bring your point total above 220 points.

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

M, 8/22 Introduction

I. What is Political Philosophy: The Ancient Perspective

W, 8/24 The Greek Polis and Ancient Athens (Required and recommended reading available on Blackboard.)

F, 8/26 Plato, *Apology*.

M, 8/29 Plato, *Crito*.

W, 8/31 Plato, *Republic*, Book I.

F, 9/01 Plato, *Republic*, Book II.

M, 9/05 Labor Day

W, 9/07 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I & X.

F, 9/09 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books II & III 1-5.

M, 9/12 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books III 6-12 & IV.

W, 9/14 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VI.

F, 9/16 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books V.

M, 9/19 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VIII & IX.

W, 9/21 Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I 1-2; II 1-5; III 1-13.

F, 9/23 Aristotle, *Politics*, Books IV 1-2, 8-9, 11-12; V 1-6; VII 13-15; VIII 1.
(<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>)

M, 9/26 Review

W, 9/28 1st Exam

II. Social Contract Theory and Constitutional Republicanism: Theory

F, 9/30 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, required chapters: 13-21; recommended: 22-31.
(<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>)

M, 10/03 Hobbes, *Leviathan* (cont.)

W, 10/05 Fall Holiday

F, 10/07 Fall Holiday

M, 10/10 Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*.

W, 10/12 Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*.

F, 10/14 Locke, *2nd Treatise on Government*.

M, 10/17 Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*.
 W, 10/19 Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*.
 F, 10/21 Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*.

M, 10/24 Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*. (Selections provided via Blackboard.)
 W, 10/26 Review
 F, 10/28 2nd Exam

III. Social Contract Theory and Constitutional Republicanism: Application & Critiques

M, 10/31 The US Constitution, *Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*,
 Introduction; Dec. of Independence, the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
 W, 11/02 The Constitution's Opponents, *Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*,
 Penn. Minority; Cato 4 & 5; Centinel 1; Brutus 6, 11, & 12.
 F, 11/04 Principles of Constitutional Design & Republicanism, *Federalist Papers*,
 Numbers 1, 2, 10, 15, 37, 39, 51, 55, 57, & 63.

M, 11/07 Separation of Powers & Federalism, *Federalist Papers*,
 Numbers 6-9, 14, 23, 33, 47-49, & 51.
 W, 11/09 Limited Government & Constitutionalism: Liberty Under Law, *Federalist Papers*,
 Numbers 24, 28, 70, 78, & 83-85.
 F, 11/11 Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience."

M, 11/14 Spooner, "No Treason Nos. I & II"
 W, 11/16 Spooner, "No Treason No. VI."
 F, 11/18 Spooner, "No Treason No. VI."

M, 11/21 Roderick T. Long, "The Nature of Law." (Provided via Blackboard.)
 W, 11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday
 F, 11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday

M, 11/28 Roderick T. Long, "The Basis of Natural Law." (Provided via Blackboard.)
 W, 11/30 Murray N. Rothbard, "The Anatomy of the State."
 (<http://www.mises.org/easaran/chap3.asp>)
 Alberto Mingardi and Carlo Stagnaro, "Tolkien vs. Power."
 (<http://www.mises.org/fullstory.aspx?control=899>)

F, 12/02 Review

Sat, 12/10 Final Exam: Saturday, December 10th, 7:30-9:30 am, in 104 Tureaud Hall.