

Introduction to Politics
Political Science 101A
Spring, 2002
Syllabus

THIS SYLLABUS IS PART OF THE MATERIAL THAT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE. YOU MAY BE TESTED OR QUIZZED ON ANY OR ALL PARTS OF IT.

This course is designed to introduce you to the meaning of politics and political things. We start our project from the standpoint of common sense, but our aim is to go beyond it without ever violating it. Therefore we start with questions that fortunately were considered and reflected upon by some of the greatest minds the world has ever known. Our study of politics begins with the questions, arguments, and answers of the great political thinkers in world history, and with considering the views of some important political leaders in history. And because these thinkers disagreed with each other, we do not have to worry about being exposed to only one point of view.

The readings follow a general chronological order from ancients to moderns. You should note that the assignments are relatively short. Because of this and because of the nature of the class, I must assume that you have studied all of the readings carefully by the first day they are due, respectively. Most importantly, you should always keep pace with the syllabus, no matter what we may be doing in class on any given day. This is the most important requirement of the course, and lack of preparation will affect your grade. You are also assigned all the international articles in The New York Times, Monday through Friday. Subscription information is supplied verbally in class.

There will be four tests, including a final examination. The first hourly exam will count for 10% of your grade; the second will count for 10% of your grade; the third, a take-home essay exam, will count for 20% of your grade; the final exam, to be given during finals week, will count for 20% of your grade. The remaining 40% of your grade will be evaluated from unannounced quizzes. Twelve will be given over the course of the semester, of which ten will count toward your grade. If you are absent for more than two, you will receive a zero for those you miss for reasons other than illness or family emergency. It will be up to you to furnish proof in this regard. If you are absent for more than three, no matter what the reason, you should seriously consider taking an "incomplete" in the course.

The Oxford College Honor Code is always in force. If you are unfamiliar with it, read it. Failure to be aware of its content is not accepted as an excuse for its violation. Plus/minus grading will not be in effect in this course.

My office is Seney 307. My office phone is 4-8334. My e-mail address is bshapir@emory.edu, and it is the preferred method of communication, either directly or through the class conference on learnlink. I am usually in my office from 11:30 to 11:45am, Monday through Thursday, and from 8:15 to 8:45am Monday-Wednesday- Friday. However, you can always make an

appointment with me, and you should plan to see me at least once in the first four weeks of the semester.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Classes begin at 9:35am and conclude at 10:25am

January 16: Introduction

I. The Beginnings of Political Philosophy: The Tension Between Human Being and Citizen.

Jan. 18, 23 25: “Antigone”

Jan 28, 30, Feb. 1, 4: “Apology” and “Crito”

Feb. 6, 8: The Politics, Book I, chaps. 1-7

Feb 11, 13: The Politics, Book III

Feb. 15, 18, 20, 22nd: “The Gospel According to St. Matthew”

Feb. 26 (8:30A.M.): Exam

II. Modern Politics: Liberal Democracy, Communism, and Fascism

Feb. 25, 27, March 1, 4, 6: The Second Treatise of Government

March 8, 18, 20, 22, 25: “The Communist Manifesto”

March 27: On reserve: Lenin

March 29, April 1, 3: On reserve: Mussolini and Hitler

April 4 (8:30A.M.): Exam

III. The Goals and Limits of Politics: Must they be in tension?

April 5, 8, 10: “An Enemy of the People”

April 12, 15: On reserve: “I Have a Dream”

April 17, 19, 22, 24: “The Tempest”

April 25 (5:00pm): Take-home essay due

April 26, 29: Review, Conclusion

There will be no classes March 11-15(mid-semester break) or on January 21 (MLK holiday). Your final exam will be on May 8, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.