

Oxford College of Emory University
Pol. Sc. 101Q.10A Introduction to Politics
Syllabus

Seney 322
M, W, F 10:45-11:50
Fall 2013

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Seney 115-A
Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M,W 1:15-2:45
Tu,Th 1:00- 3:00
& by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Ways of Inquiry (INQ) Courses

INQ courses are part of Oxford's distinctive approach to teaching and learning. There are a number of INQ courses in each of the 5 tag areas, and students are required to take 3 INQ courses from at least 2 different tag areas. Inquiry courses are designed to teach and move the student beyond the fundamental concepts, principles, assumptions and terminology of a discipline, and to help them understand and question the ways knowledge is pursued, and to practice the skills of independent academic inquiry within and across disciplines. Students learn to ask important questions and to explore the world from a variety of perspectives.

This course embodies the INQ approach (Ways of Inquiry) that Oxford College has incorporated into our General Education Program (GEP). Students will be introduced to and expected to acquire the fundamental concepts and theories that are essential to the study of politics, but the learning of these concepts and theories will be conducted using an inquiry-driven and integrative model.

From a substantive point of view, the purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts of politics and to develop their abilities to communicate knowledge of the subject matter through written and oral English. The development of the student's ability to communicate social and political ideas through the use of written English is an integral part of the course, and all students will be required to demonstrate their proficiency through in class written assignments. During the course of the semester we shall examine writings of some of the great minds of Western Civilization as they relate to the fundamental issues of politics. We shall examine these writings with a critical eye to attempt to understand that which they share in common and that on which they differ. At the least we will attempt to come to grips with the fundamental questions of political thought and political life. Ultimately, we will try to grasp the answers, if any, given to these fundamental questions in the works we study and to apply them to present day questions and problems.

TEXTS:

Sophocles: *THREE TRAGEDIES*, Grene & Lattimore, eds. (Chicago)
Plato: *APOLOGY* and *CRITO*, West, trans. (Cornell)
Aristotle: *THE POLITICS*, Lord, trans. (Chicago)
Lessing: *NATHAN THE WISE* Bedford/St. Martin's)
Locke: *THE SECOND TREATISE OF GOVERNMENT* (Macmillan)
Marx & Engels: *THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO* (International Publishers)
Ibsen: *FOUR MAJOR PLAYS*, v. 2 (Signet)
Shakespeare: *THE TEMPEST*, (Signet)
Other readings will be available in the Library in electronic or printed form

New York Times (daily)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be two announced in-class tests during the course of the semester. These tests will be given during regular class periods and will count for a total of 40% of the student's final grade (20% each). Any unexcused absence from a quiz or test will result in a grade of zero for that test. The scheduled dates for these tests are **October 2 and November 4**. A final test is scheduled for **2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2013**. The final test will count for 25% of the student's final grade. In addition, there will be not fewer than six unannounced quizzes given during the course of the semester. The average of these quiz grades will count for 25% of the student's final grade. These quizzes may be given on any scheduled class day. The remaining 10% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class. Quizzes may be given at the beginning of class or the end of class and may be short answer or a short spontaneous writing on the material covered in that class. All examinations, tests, and quizzes are cumulative.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS DISTURBANCE

Cell phones, pagers, and beepers are not permitted in my classroom unless they are completely turned off! Should any personal communication or other device cause a disturbance by making its presence known (audibly or otherwise), the possessor of the device may be required to leave the classroom immediately.

MAKE-UP WORK:

An unexcused absence from any quiz, test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that quiz, test or examination.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are also expected to arrive for class on time. Students who are not in class are unable to participate in discussion and take quizzes. In addition, students who miss more than four classes will lose the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of his or her final grade.

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it (as described on pages 112-116 of the 2013-2014 Catalog of Oxford College). When in doubt, ask first!

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. Unless otherwise notified in class (or noted on the outline), students should complete the reading assignments for each chapter by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. For the purposes of quizzes, students are expected to have completed all readings by the first day they are due.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on pages 86-87 of the 2013-2014 Catalog of Oxford College) will be used in determining grades for this class.

**THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY.**

OUTLINE OF THE CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug. 28, 30: **Introduction**

I. THE ROOTS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Sept. 4, 6: Sophocles: "Antigone" (entire)

Sept. 9, 11, 13: Plato: "Apology of Socrates"

Sept. 16, 18: Plato: "Crito"

Sept. 20, 23, 25: Aristotle: The Politics, Book I

Sept. 27, 30: Aristotle: The Politics, Book III

Oct. 2: TEST 1

Oct. 4, 7, 9, 11: E Reserve readings from *Genesis* (ch. 1-25), *Exodus* (ch. 1-20); *The Gospel According to Matthew* (ch. 1-12) Text reserve; E Reserve readings from the *Koran* (Suras 1-5 of Arberry translation)

Oct. 14: Fall Break

II. MODERN POLITICS: LIBERAL DEMOCRACY, COMMUNISM, AND FASCISM

Oct. 16: Lessing: "Nathan the Wise" (play only)

Oct. 18, 21, 23, 25: Locke, "Second Treatise," pp. 3-56, 68-73, 75-82, 96-99, 119-139

Oct. 28, 30; Nov. 1: "The Communist Manifesto" (all) + E Reserve material on Lenin (Reserve material from "Imperialism . . ." and "The State and Revolution" (due 11/3)

Nov. 4: TEST II

Nov. 6, 9: E Reserve material on fascism (Mussolini) and Nazism (Hitler)

III. THE GOALS AND LIMITS OF POLITICS

Nov. 11, 13, 15, 18: Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"

Nov. 20, 22: "I Have a Dream"

Nov. 27-Dec. 1: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 25; Dec. 2, 4, 6: Shakespeare: "The Tempest" & Conclusion

Dec. 9: Conclusions and Discussion

Dec. 13: Final Examination (2:00-5:00)