

Introduction to Politics
Political Science 101A
Fall, 2003
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. Finally, there may be handouts from time to time for which you will be responsible. When distributed they will have bearing on the particular subject under discussion and you may be quizzed and/or tested on the material contained therein.

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. In order to do well on the quizzes, you will have to be prepared for each class. In order to do well in the course, you will have to do well on the quizzes. This course rewards effort and preparation, and penalizes lack of preparation and “cramming.” You should take note of these facts as you determine what you wish your future in this class to be.

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. I simply will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. If you cheat, plagiarize, or take someone else’s work as your own, I will take it to honor council and pursue the case. This is not negotiable, and there are no excuses for academic dishonesty. Plus/minus grading will not be in effect in this course.

My office is 307 Seney Hall. My phone number is 4-8334. My e-mail address is bshapir@emory.edu and **this is the preferred form of communication, either directly or through the class conference on learnlink.** I am *usually* in my office from 8:30 to 9:15am, Monday through Thursday, but you should make an appointment if you want to be sure I will be there. You can always make an appointment with me, and you should plan to see me at least once in the first four to six weeks of the semester. Class begins at 9:35am and concludes at 10:25am.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August 27, 29:

Introduction

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

Sept. 3, 5, 8:

“Antigone”

Sept. 10, 12, 15, 17:

“Apology” and “Crito”

Sept. 19, 22:

The Politics, Book I, chaps. 1-7

Sept. 24, 26:

The Politics, Book III

Sept. 29; Oct. 1, 3:

from “Genesis” and “Exodus”
from “The Gospel According to St.
Matthew”
from The Koran

Sept. 30 (8:45am):

Exam

Modern Politics: Liberal Democracy, Communism, and Fascism

Oct. 6:

No class

Oct. 8, 10, 15, 17:

The Second Treatise of Government

Oct. 20, 22, 24, 27:

“The Communist Manifesto”

Oct. 29:

On reserve: Lenin

Oct. 31; Nov. 3, 5:

On reserve: Mussolini and Hitler

Nov. 6 (8:45am):

Exam

The Goals and Limits of Politics: Must they be in Tension?

Nov. 7, 10:

“An Enemy of the People”

Nov. 12, 14:

On reserve: speeches of King, Churchill

Nov. 17, 19, 21:

“The Tempest.”

Nov. 24:

Essay Exam due.

Dec. 1, 3, 5, 8:

Review and Conclusion

Dec. 10:

Reading Day

There will be no classes on Sept. 1 (Labor Day); October 6 (Yom Kippur); Oct. 13 (Fall Break); and Nov. 26-28 (Thanksgiving Recess).