

## Political Science 101: Introduction to Politics Spring 2004 Syllabus

Dr. Nathan Busch  
Office: Professor Shapiro's office  
Phone: 770-784-8334 (Oxford)  
706-542-9810 (UGA)  
e-mail: nbusch@uga.edu  
Office Hours: T/Th 8:00-9:00

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce you to the meaning of politics and develop your ability to communicate knowledge of the subject in a meaningful way. We begin our study of political philosophy with our common opinions about justice, law, and political life. Our goal is to evaluate those opinions critically and move beyond them without violating common sense. We follow the lead of some of the greatest minds of Western civilization by considering the questions, arguments, and dilemmas that animated the great political philosophers. As we engage ourselves in the debate among these geniuses, we strive to grasp the importance of the most fundamental questions of human life and move closer to answering them.

### Required Texts:

Sophocles: *Three Tragedies*

Plato: *Apology* and *Crito*

Aristotle: *The Politics*

*The Gospel According to Matthew*

Locke: *The Second Treatise of Government*

Marx and Engels: *The Communist Manifesto*

Ibsen: *Four Major Plays*

Shakespeare: *The Tempest*

*And Readings on Reserve in the Library*

In addition to the texts, you are required to read the international section of the *New York Times* and any additional articles I assign.

<b>Evaluation:</b>	20% Quizzes
	15% First exam
	20% Second exam
	20% Take home comprehensive essay
	25% Final exam

There will be four main assignments in this class including two midterm exams, a take home essay, and a final exam. All of these assignments will be comprehensive. In addition to these four assignments, I will give *at least seven* unannounced quizzes over the course of the semester. *There will be no make-up quizzes.* 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. The reading assignments are due on the first day for which they are scheduled. *You should come to each class prepared for a vigorous, thoughtful discussion of the day's topic.* In the event of a "borderline" grade I will give the "benefit of the doubt" to those who attend class regularly and are prepared. You must complete all major assignments to pass this course.

The Plus-Minus Grading Scale will be used in determining grades for this course. The range of grades will be as follows: A, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F.

The Oxford College Honor Code is always in force. Please familiarize yourself with it if you are not already aware of its content.

## Class Schedule

Note: The reading assignments are due on the first day for which they are scheduled.

*You should come to each class prepared for a vigorous, thoughtful discussion of the day's topic.*

Jan 15 Introduction

### **I. The Roots of Political Philosophy: The Distinction Between Man and Citizen**

Jan 20, 22 “Antigone”

Jan 27, 29 “Apology”

Feb 3, 5 “Crito”

Feb 10 *The Politics* Book I, ch. 1-7

Feb 12, 19 *The Politics* Book III

**Feb 17 First Test**

Feb 24 “The Gospel According to St. Matthew”

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

Feb 26, Mar 2, 4, 16 *The Second Treatise of Government*  
(pp. 3-55, 70-73, 96-99, 119-139)

**March 8-12 Spring Break**

March 18, 23 “The Communist Manifesto”

**March 25 Second Test**

March 30, April 1 On Reserve: Mussolini and Hitler

**April 6-8 No Class**

### **III. The Goals and Limits of Politics**

April 13, 15 “An Enemy of the People”

April 20, 22 “The Tempest”

**April 22 Due date for essay exam**

April 27 Conclusion, Review