

**Introduction to Politics
Political Science 101A
Spring, 2005
Syllabus**

**The Honor Code is in force and will be
followed completely in this course.**

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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.

*“short”
does not
mean
“easy.”*

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. **Quizzes cannot be “made up,” so be careful not to miss quizzes for trivial reasons.** 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 Seney 307. My office phone is 4-8334. My e-mail address is Shapiro@learnlink.emory.edu and this is the preferred method of communication, either directly or through the class conference on learnlink. Office hours are by appointment, though I am usually there from 8:30 to 9:15am most mornings, **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 try to make an appointment in the first four weeks of the semester.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

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

January 19, 21: Introduction

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

Jan. 24, 26, 28: "Antigone"

Jan 31; Feb. 2, 4, 7: "Apology" and "Crito"

Feb. 9, 11, 14: The Politics, Book I, chaps. 1-7

Feb 16, 18: The Politics, Book III

Feb. 21, 23, 25, 28: from "Genesis" and "Exodus"
from "The Gospel According to St. Matthew"
From The Koran
"Nathan the Wise"

March 1 (8:30A.M.): Exam

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

March 2, 4, 7, 9: The Second Treatise of Government

March 11, 21, 23, 25: "The Communist Manifesto"
Handout

March 28: On reserve: Lenin

March 30; April, 1, 4: On reserve: Mussolini and Hitler

April 5 (8:30A.M.): Exam

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

April 6, 8: “An Enemy of the People”

April 11, 13: On reserve: speeches by King, Churchill, and Hitler

April 15, 18, 20, 22: “The Tempest”

April 27 (10:25am): Take-home essay due
(Lateness will be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day late. If you do not have documentation of illness or a family emergency, your paper is late.)

April 27, 29, May 2: Review, Conclusion

I take attendance every day because it is my legal obligation to know who is in my class, and it is my community obligation to be able to inform other professors and appropriate people if you are cutting class. However, I do not penalize your grade for a specific number of cuts. On the other hand, if you have read this syllabus carefully, you do understand that it is impossible to do well in this course without attending and being prepared.

You need to check the class conference regularly. Material on it is part of the course, and you can be quizzed on it.

There will be no classes March 14-18 because it is mid-semester break. There will be no class on April 25 because I will be observing a religious holiday (Passover). Your final exam will be on Tuesday, May 10, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

From time to time it is possible I will have cancel class because of circumstances beyond my control. These classes will be made up, usually early mornings, because that is when there are no conflicts. If you consider this an undue hardship, you should think twice about taking this course with me as the instructor.