

**Introduction to Politics
Political Science 101.08A
Fall, 2013
Syllabus**

**Read all the information in this document carefully, so
you are not surprised by requirements you may find
onerous.**

**September 4, 2013 – Last day for changing courses.
October 18, 2013 – Last day for dropping courses
without academic penalty.**

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

This course is patterned after the INQ approach (Ways of Inquiry) Oxford is incorporating into our General Education Program (GEP). Students will be introduced to and expected to know 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 model. (KV)

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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 responsible for knowing what is going on in the world; you can learn this by reading all the international articles in The New York Times regularly. Subscription information is available through the Bookstore. You may sometimes wonder why knowledge of international affairs is necessary to know and why you are quizzed on it. We will probably not discuss these issues at any great length, unless some world crisis comes up. The reason is two-fold. First, while “current events” and “politics” are not the same thing, it is often impossible to offer political examples without referring to “current events.” Second, most college students (do not take this personally, and it may not apply to you personally) do not know anything about international affairs, international geography, or cultures other than their own. In order to understand politics, one must possess such information. An introductory course in politics cannot work without introducing students to these collateral issues. On the other hand, we simply do not have time for partisan debates over emotional issues. Indeed, we cannot devote time to how you “feel” about what we will study, but we will consider what you “think.” Thought is characterized by offering evidence and using logical argument, not by emoting. Sometimes the distinction can be difficult to maintain, for instance, when discussing genocide, which is inherently and properly an “emotional” issue.

*“short”
does not
mean
“easy.”*

Finally, there may be handouts from time to time for which you will be responsible. When distributed they will have bearing, directly or indirectly, on the course and you may be quizzed and or tested on the material contained therein. I will also show a film on September 21st at 6:30pm entitled Regarding Henry. ***If*** you attend this screening ***and*** stay

for the discussion that follows you will be entitled to one extra point on your final average.

There will be three tests, including a final examination. The first hourly exam will count for 10% of your grade; the second, an in-class essay exam, will count for 25% of your grade; the **final exam**, to be given during finals week at **7:00pm on Thursday, Dec. 12**, will count for 25% of your grade. The remaining 40% of your grade will be evaluated from unannounced (although you should note that one will usually be administered on your first day back from a recess) quizzes. At least thirteen will be given over the course of the semester, of which ten will count toward your grade. If you are absent for more than three 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.

One of them will be mostly on the material in the syllabus.

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. You should be aware that use of spark notes, summaries online or any other secondary source that explains the primary reading is considered an honor offense in this course. Plus/minus grading will not be in effect in this course.

My office is Seney 303. My office phone is 4-8334. My e-mail address is bshapir@emory.edu and this is the preferred method of communication, either directly or through the class conference on learnlink. **Office hours are by appointment and it is easiest to secure an appointment by e-mailing me to request one.**

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Classes begin at 8:15am and conclude at 9:20am

August 28, 30: Introduction, Handout

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

Sept. 4, 9: “Antigone”

Sept. 6: No class

Sept. 11, 13, 16: “Apology” and “Crito”

Sept. 18, 20:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book I, chaps. 1-7
Sept. 23, 25, 30:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book III
Sept. 27:	No class.
Oct. 2, 4, 7:	from “Genesis” and “Deuteronomy” from “The Gospel According to St. Matthew” from <u>The Koran</u> “Nathan the Wise.”
Oct. 10 (8:30am):	Exam
Oct. 14:	Mid-semester break
Oct. 9, 11, 16, 18:	<u>The Second Treatise of Government</u>
Oct. 23:	No class.

More specific
page references
will be given in
October.

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

Oct. 21, 25, 28, 30:	“The Communist Manifesto”
Nov. 1, 4:	On reserve: Lenin
Nov. 6, 8:	<u>Darkness at Noon</u>
Nov. 11, 13, 15:	On reserve: Mussolini and Hitler

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

Nov. 18, 20:	“An Enemy of the People”
Nov. 21 (8:30am):	Essay Exam.
Nov. 22, 25:	On reserve: speeches of King, Churchill
Dec. 2, 4, 6:	“The Tempest.”
Dec. 9:	Conclusion
Dec. 11:	Reading Day
Dec. 12 (7:00pm):	Final Exam

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 will be quizzed on it.

There will be no class September 2 because it is Labor Day. There will be no class on September 6th and 27th because I will be observing Jewish holidays. There will be no class on October 14 because it is mid-semester break. There will be no class on Oct. 23 because of a professional obligation.

From time to time it is possible I will have to cancel class because of circumstances beyond my control. These classes will be made up, usually in the early morning during the week (7:15am to 8:10am) or on a Sunday, 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.

A FURTHER NOTE ON QUIZZES AND TESTS

All quizzes offer you six questions and you are asked to answer five. Sometimes there are “bonus” questions, so that sometimes it is possible to earn more than 100 on quizzes. These bonus questions come from the reading that is due for that particular day, according to the syllabus. Anyone who achieves a 90% average or better on the quizzes will earn five extra points on his/her final average.

The two hourly exams will consist of six short answer questions, of which you will be asked to answer five. In addition, there will be an essay. How the essay question will be communicated will be announced. There will be an essay exam administered, as the syllabus specifies. The final exam is all short answers and will take one hour.

THE HONOR CODE, AGAIN

You are responsible for knowing and understanding the Honor Code, and you can always ask TA's or me about anything to do with the Honor Code and this class. Therefore there will be no discussion or negotiation about violating the Honor Code. That is why Honor Council exists.

MY GRADING SYSTEM

The following averages in the course will yield the grades indicated. I follow the numbers strictly, except for the final exam. If you pass the final exam you do pass the course, no matter what your average might be. This is the only time I do not follow the numbers precisely for grading in this course.

There will be no “extra-credit” projects of any kind, **and quizzes, to repeat, cannot be “made up.”**

85-100=A

75-84=B

65-74=C

55-64=D

54 or less = F.