

Oxford College of Emory University

Political Science 101: Introduction to Politics

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T & TH 1-2:15
Course SI: Lynn Hargrow

Course Overview

This is **THE** introductory course to Political Science offered at Oxford College. We require you to take this course *before* you take any other political science course. **Why do we do this?** If you decide to take more courses after this one, you will find you have been given a very unique experience, for much else in Political Science concerns itself with what can be known *through the scientific method*. That is, most of what you learn *after this course* is based on an understanding of things political (states, institutions, leaders, laws, political behavior, elections, and even culture) through the gathering of empirical evidence to support theory of the *known* world. In contrast, Political Science 101 concerns itself with qualitative questions about *what should* or *ought* to be.

We will be reading, analyzing, discussing and writing about some of the greatest political thinkers in history. Yet, we will be discussing these great works for a very different purpose than that given in other political science courses: we are asking questions that we *cannot* answer with any verifiable evidence. Thus, we *cannot* know if our answers are correct. For example: can we really know “what the GOOD is?” or “what is the GOOD life?” That is, we *intentionally* ask questions we know we cannot answer with any concrete certainty.

Why would we do this to you? And why would we require you to take an introductory course that seemingly is a small tangent of current political science? As it turns out, *these were the first questions of political science*. They were asked by great political thinkers about things political before hypothesis testing, large data aggregations, and number crunching, and regression analysis.

These questions, in fact, are so important **that they must be thought about first**. We ask you these questions so when you venture on to the empirical confines of political science, you will not forget them. They underlie our science and touch our lives virtually in every regard. We may try and avoid them, but they are there. They are the essence of what makes politics interesting.

Required Reading

Sophocles: *Three Tragedies*
 Plato: *Apology & Crito*
 Aristotle: *The Politics*
 Lessing: *Nathan the Wise*
 Locke: *The Second Treatise of Government*
 Marx & Engels: *The Communist Manifesto*
 Ibsen: *Four Major Plays*
 Shakespeare: *The Tempest*
 Koran (selected reading on reserve)
 Bible: (selected reading on reserve)
The New York Times, National pages Monday-Friday

Course Grades

2 non-cumulative exams = 200 points (100 points each) **(9/29 & 11/12)**
 1 Cumulative Final = 150 points **(12/14 9-12AM)**
 7 **Unannounced Quizzes**, 5 are calculated into final grade = 100 points

TOTAL = 450 POINTS

Plus-Minus Grading Scale will be used (described on our blackboard conference)

Honor Code

I do not tolerate violations of the honor code. If you cheat and get caught, I will turn you in without hesitation. If you are found guilty, you will receive an automatic F in the course.

The code can be accessed at:

http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/academics/academic_success/honor_code.dot

Attendance

You are not required to come to class. However, there are POP quizzes. If you miss more than 2, you will receive a 0 for that quiz (unless you furnish a recognized dean's excuse for your absence). This class is not one to cram for and take lightly. If this self-monitoring is too difficult for you and you are unsure you can make this commitment, I suggest you think about another course and major.

CLASS OUTLINE

August 27

INTRODUCTION---Syllabus and Friedman Chapter

I. Political Philosophy: Foundations

September 1 & 3

Sophocles: "Antigone" (entire play)

September 8 & 10

Plato: "Apology of Socrates"

September 15

Plato: "Crito"

September 17

Aristotle: The Politics, Book 1

September 22 & 24

Aristotle: The Politics, *Book III*

September 29

EXAM ONE

October 1

Reserve: *Genesis* (Ch. 1-25)
Exodus (Ch. 1-20)

October 6

Reserve: *The Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Ch. 1-12)

October 8

Reserve: *Koran* (Suras 1-5)

October 13

MIDSEMESTER BREAK OFF

October 15

Reserve: *Nathan the Wise* (entire play)

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

October 20 & 22

Locke "Second Treatise" (esp. pp. 3-56;
68-73; 75-82; 96-99; 119-139)

October 27 & 29

Marx: The Communist Manifesto

November 3

Reserve: Lenin

November 5 & 10

Reserve: Mussolini (Fascism) &
Hitler (Nazism)

November 12

EXAM TWO

III. Politics: Goals and Limits

November 17 & 19

Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"

November 24

Reserve: MLK, jr. "I Have a
Dream"

November 26

OFF TG HOLIDAY

December 1 & 3

Shakespeare: "The Tempest"

December 8

Wrapping Up

December 14

CUMULATIVE FINAL (9-12 AM)