

Oxford College of Emory University
Pol. Sc. 101 Introduction to Politics
Syllabus

Seney 310
M, W 2:00-3:15
Spring 2009

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Seney 115-A
Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M, W 10-11
Tu, Th 1:30-4
& by appointment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts of politics and to develop their abilities to communicate knowledge of the subject matter through written and oral English. The development of the student's ability to communicate social and political ideas through the use of written English is an integral part of the course, and all students will be required to demonstrate their proficiency through in class written assignments. During the course of the semester we shall examine writings of some of the great minds of Western civilization as they relate to the fundamental issues of politics. We shall examine these writings with a critical eye to attempt to understand that which they share in common and that on which they differ. At the least we shall attempt to come to grips with the fundamental questions of political thought and political life. Ultimately, we shall attempt to grasp the answers, if any, given to these fundamental questions in the works we study.

TEXTS:

Sophocles: *THREE TRAGEDIES*, Grene & Lattimore, Eds. (Chicago)
Plato: *APOLOGY* and *CRITO*, West, trans. (Cornell)
Aristotle: *THE POLITICS*, Lord, trans. (Chicago)
Lessing: *NATHAN THE WISE* Bedford/St. Martin's)
Locke: *THE SECOND TREATISE OF GOVERNMENT* (Macmillan)
Marx & Engels: *THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO* (International Publishers)
Ibsen: *FOUR MAJOR PLAYS*, v. 2 (Signet)
Shakespeare: *THE TEMPEST*, (Signet)

New York Times (daily)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be two announced in-class tests during the course of the semester. These tests will be given during regular class periods and will count for a total of 40% of the student's final grade. Any unexcused absence from a test will result in a grade of zero for that test. The scheduled dates for these tests are **February 23 and April 6**. A comprehensive final examination is scheduled for **2:00-5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2009**. The final exam will count for 25% of the student's final grade. In addition, there will be not fewer than six unannounced quizzes given during the course of the semester. The average of these quiz grades will count for 20% of the student's final grade. These quizzes may be given on any scheduled class day. The remaining 15% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class, especially the group presentations on the *New York Times*. All examinations, tests, and quizzes are cumulative.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS DISTURBANCE

Cell phones, pagers, computers, and beepers are not permitted in my classroom unless they are completely turned off! In the event that any personal communication device or other device causes a disturbance by making its presence known (audibly or otherwise), the possessor of the device may be asked to leave the room immediately and will be counted absent from the class for that day..

MAKE-UP WORK:

The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive--no "extra credit" will be allowed. An unexcused absence from any quiz, test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that quiz, test or examination.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are also expected to arrive for class on time. Students who are not in class are unable to participate in discussion and take quizzes and could lose points on the participation grade. In addition, students who miss more than three classes will lose the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of his or her final grade. Students who accumulate an excessive number of absences may be dropped from the course with a grade of WF (where appropriate).

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it. When in doubt, ask first! (See pages 103-106 of the 2008-2009 Catalog of Oxford College)

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. Unless otherwise notified in class (or noted on the outline), students should complete the reading assignments for each topic by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. For the purposes of quizzes, students are expected to have completed all readings by the first day they are due.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on page 87-88 of the 2008-2009 Catalog of Oxford College) will be used in determining grades for this class.

**THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY.**

OUTLINE OF THE CLASS SCHEDULE

- Jan. 14: Introduction: Pols 101.02A Syllabus
- Jan. 19, 21:** **MLK Holiday and Annual Meeting of AAC&U. No Class Meeting. Read Ahead! Class scheduled for Jan. 21 will be made up on 1/15 &/or 1/22 (TBA).**

I. THE ROOTS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

- Jan. 26: Sophocles: "Antigone" (entire)
- Jan. 28; Feb. 2: Plato: "Apology of Socrates"
- Feb. 4: Plato: "Crito"
- Feb. 9, 11: Aristotle: The Politics, Book I
- Feb. 16, 18: Aristotle: The Politics, Book III
- Feb. 23:** **TEST 1**
- Feb. 25: Reserve readings from *Genesis* (ch. 1-25), *Exodus* (ch. 1-20)
- Mar. 2: *The Gospel According to Matthew* (ch. 1-12)
- Mar. 4: Reserve readings from the *Koran* (Suras 1-5 of Arberry translation)
- Mar. 16: Lessing: "Nathan the Wise" (entire play only)
- Mar. 9-13:** **Spring Break**

II. MODERN POLITICS: LIBERAL DEMOCRACY, COMMUNISM, AND FASCISM

- Mar. 18, 23: Locke, "Second Treatise," pp. 3-56, 68-73, 75-82, 96-99, 119-139
- Mar. 25, 30: "The Communist Manifesto" (all) + Reserve material on Lenin (Reserve material from "Imperialism . . ." and "The State and Revolution")
- Apr. 6:** **TEST II**
- Apr. 1, 8: Reserve material on fascism (Mussolini) and Nazism (Hitler)

III. THE GOALS AND LIMITS OF POLITICS

- Apr. 13, 15: Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"
- Apr. 20, 22: "I Have a Dream"
- Apr. 27: Shakespeare: "The Tempest"
- May 5:** **Final Examination (2:00-5:00)**