

OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 101Q: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS

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Class Conference:  
BLACKBOARD: POLITICAL SCIENCE 101Q

Drop In Hours:  
TU & TH 3:30-5:30  
And By Appointment

Supplemental Instructors:  
Margaret Avera  
Garrett Shuler

"Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education."

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This is **THE** introductory course to Political Science offered at Oxford College. We require you to take this course. If you decide to take more courses after this one, you will find you have been given a very unique experience. That's generally because all other courses in Political Science at Oxford (except Political Theory courses) focus on the empirical side of politics: that which is 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, conflict, elections, and even culture) through the gathering of evidence to support theory of the *known* world. This type of inquiry is very important, but the manner in which we inquire in this course is different. Rather than ask how, we ask why and how it ought to be. For example, how should political institutions, governments, parties, leaders, and the like operate

to bring about the best way to live or the best life for their citizens? What is the most just society? Why?

In Political Science 101Q, we expose you to these questions because they must be addressed first. They are the beginning questions of our discipline and as it turns out, they keep us interested going forward. We will be reading, analyzing, discussing and writing about some of the greatest political thinkers in the ancient and modern periods and getting their perspective on these important questions. We will intentionally ask questions we know we cannot answer with any concrete certainty with the greatest thinkers as our guides but we will make arguments in the manner of our thinkers. What we seek to train you to do in Political Science 101 is to make cogent arguments (both in oral and written form) based on the perspective of the political thinkers we cover in this course. The questions will become your lens and help you to raise your own questions.

## INQUIRY COURSE

As such, this course is by nature an **inquiry driven** course. INQ or Ways of Inquiry courses are an essential component of our General Education Program (GEP) at Oxford College. 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.

## HOW?

Most classes will be devoted to lecture with time for reflection (either in writing or discussion). I expect you to ask questions about the reading and the lecture as well as the NYTIMES to accomplish this goal. You will need to connect stories you are reading in the NYTIMES to class readings. You will practice and get more independent at doing this sort of connecting and inquiring through 2 primary means: Journals/Reflections and Their Voice Assignments/Debates.

## JOURNALS/REFLECTIONS

Several weeks during the semester, you will submit a one typed, double-spaced page equivalent journal entry to our blackboard conference by Friday at 5pm on the week they are assigned. 5 of the best of these submissions will be counted for a grade. First drafts rarely receive an A. Thus you will need to rewrite and edit your responses based on my feedback if you want a better grade. My feedback will be much more extensive initially to help you better construct your arguments but then will become less detailed to assess your ability to construct better arguments and develop the ability to think and write critically.

## THEIR VOICE

After drop add, on September 3rd, each of you will be assigned one thinker, character, etc. from the ancient period. Don't read ahead if your assigned thinker/character has not been covered in class! I will cover the thinker or character through lecture and discussion that builds upon your reading and often re-reading of the work. One week before, you will be given an assignment you will prepare for the completion of in class on the assigned date (ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY). A similar in class project will be assigned one week before the end of the modern period. You will complete the project in class on the assigned date (ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY).

## REQUIRED READINGS FOR COURSE

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*

Koran (selected reading on reserve)

Bible: (selected reading on reserve)

*The New York Times*, Front Page Stories Monday-Thursday

## COURSE GRADES

The reading load in this class is NOT heavy. I expect you to read what is assigned by the time it is assigned in the Syllabus (for example: All of Sophocles *Antigone* is to be read by Sept 2nd). You are also to read the New York Times FRONT PAGE Stories. You can read the physical paper or online; both require an up front fee. If you do read the paper online, please click the tab for "today's paper." To encourage your attendance and preparations for class, I give pop quizzes. I give a minimum of 6 of these throughout the semester, allowing you to drop 1 no questions asked.

### GRADE BREAKDOWN:

JOURNALS/REFLECTIONS 100 POINTS

QUIZZES 50 POINTS

THEIR VOICES 50 POINTS EACH

EXAM 1 50 POINTS

EXAM 2 50 POINTS

FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM 100

450 Possible Points

## 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](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 semester though I reserve the right to add quizzes if the class is demonstrating a need (i.e. reading is clearly not being completed). Quizzes are meant to determine if you are doing your reading, including the NYTimes! Exams will not require NYTimes readings.

You may drop 1 quiz no questions asked. After that, you will be assigned a 0 on missed quizzes. This class is not one to cram for and take lightly. Come to class and take notes. Written notes are better than typed notes. The power points are available to you but there's no substitute for your own notes. You will need to review these before each class. That way, you will be able to keep up with material that really piles up!

TIP:

- (1) Come to class, take notes over the course readings on your own and in class.
- (2) Review your class notes in particular from the previous 2 or 3 prior classes to be ready for quizzes and discussion, etc.
- (3) Go to SI! Speaking of which, your SIs are Garrett Shuler and Margaret Avera!

## CLASS OUTLINE

August 28

Introduction to Politics-Syllabus

### I. Political Philosophy: The Ancients & Our Foundations

September 2 & 4

Sophocles: "Antigone"

September 9 & 11

Plato: "Apology of Socrates"

September 16

Plato: "Crito"

September 18 & 23	Aristotle: <u>The Politics</u> , <i>Book 1</i>
Sept. 25 & 30	Aristotle: <u>The Politics</u> , <i>Book III</i>
October 2 & 7	<b>Their Voice In Class Project</b> (attendance is mandatory!)
October 9	<b>EXAM 1</b>
October 14	Fall Break
October 16	Religion Lecture I: Old Testament: <i>Genesis</i> (Ch. 1-25) <i>Exodus</i> (Ch. 1-20)
October 21 & 23	In class journal reflection and editing-small group work with discussion leaders as SI. Attendance is mandatory
October 28	Religion Lecture II: New Testament: <i>The Gospel According to St.</i> <i>Matthew</i> (Ch. 1-12)
October 30	Religion Lecture III: <i>Koran (Suras 1-5)</i>
November 4	<i>Nathan the Wise</i> (entire play)

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

November 6 & 11	Locke "Second Treatise" (esp. pp. 3-56; 68-73; 75-82; 96-99; 119-139)
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November 13 & 18	Marx: <u>The Communist Manifesto</u> Reserve: Lenin
November 20 & 22	Reserve: Mussolini (Fascism) Hitler (Nazism)
November 25	<b>Their Voice In Class Project</b> <b>(attendance is mandatory!)</b>
November 27	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	<b>EXAM 2</b>

### III. Politics: Goals and Limits

December 4 & 9	Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"
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**CUMULATIVE FINAL** for 10-11:40 Section: Friday, December 12 from 9AM-12PM

**CUMULATIVE FINAL** for 1:40-3:20 Section: Monday, December 15 from 2PM-5PM

I hereby declare by signing, that I have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THE CONTENTS OF THIS  
SYLLABUS SO DON'T LOSE IT!

DR. V