

Introduction to Politics  
Political Science 101A  
Spring, 2001  
Syllabus

**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.

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.

**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. Plus/minus grading will not be in effect in this course.

My office is 307 Seney Hall. My phone number is 4-8334. My e-mail address is [bshapir@emory.edu](mailto:bshapir@emory.edu) and this is the preferred form of communication, either directly or through the class conference on learnlink. I am usually in my office from 8:30 to 9:15am, Monday through Thursday. However, you can always make an appointment with me, and you should plan to see me at least once in the first four weeks of the semester. Class begins at 9:35am and concludes at 10:25am.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

August 31:

Introduction

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

Sept. 5, 7, 10, 12:

“Antigone”

Sept. 14, 17, 21, 24:

“Apology” and “Crito”

Sept. 26; Oct. 1:

The Politics, Book I, chaps. 1-7

Oct. 3, 5, 8:

The Politics, Book III

**Oct. 9 (8:45am):**

**Exam**

Oct. 10, 12, 17:

“The Gospel According to St. Matthew”

### **Modern Politics: Liberal Democracy, Communism, and Fascism**

Oct. 19, 22, 24, 26:

The Second Treatise of Government

Oct. 29, 31; Nov. 2, 5:

“The Communist Manifesto”

Nov. 7, 9:

On reserve: Lenin

Nov. 12, 14, 16, 19:

On reserve: Mussolini and Hitler

### **The Goals and Limits of Politics: Must they be in tension?**

**Nov. 20 (8:45am):**

**Exam**

Nov. 21, 26:

“An Enemy of the People”

Nov. 28, 30:

On reserve: “I Have a Dream”

**Nov. 30:**

**Essay Exam due.**

Dec. 3, 5, 7, 10:

“The Tempest” and Review and Conclusion

**There will be no classes on Sept. 3 (Labor Day); Sept. 19 (Rosh Hashana); Sept. 28 (I have a personal commitment); Oct. 15 (Fall Break); and Nov. 22-23 (Thanksgiving Recess).**