

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 2:30-3:30
And By Appointment

Supplemental Instructor:
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"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 *before* you take any other political science course. 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 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 do, we ask how should/ought. 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?

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. We will intentionally ask questions we know we cannot answer with any concrete certainty with the greatest thinkers as our guides. 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.

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 on a daily basis to class readings. Write down your thoughts, questions, reflections and I will collect these randomly for a grade. Your classmates will be reading your responses as part of the discussion through the "question exchange."

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. 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.

THEIR VOICE

After drop add, on September 5th, each of you will be assigned 1 thinker, character, etc. from the ancient period. Don't read ahead! I will cover the thinker or character in plenty of time for you to complete the assignment. 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*

Shakespeare: *The Tempest*

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 August 29). 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 7 of these throughout the semester, allowing you to drop 2 no questions asked.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:
 JOURNALS/REFLECTIONS 50 POINTS
 QUIZZES 50 POINTS
 THEIR VOICES 50 POINTS
 EXAM 1 50 POINTS
 EXAM 2 50 POINTS
 FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM 100

350 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

ATTENDANCE

You are not required to come to class. However, there are POP quizzes----7 per 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!

You may drop 2 quizzes 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. 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 29

Introduction to Politics-Syllabus

I. Political Philosophy: The Ancients & Our Foundations

September 3 & 5

Sophocles: "Antigone"

September 10 & 12

Plato: "Apology of Socrates"

September 17

Plato: "Crito"

September 19 & 24

Aristotle: The Politics, *Book 1*

Sept. 26 & Oct. 1

Aristotle: The Politics, *Book III*

October 3

Their Voice In Class Project
(attendance is mandatory!)

October 8

EXAM 1

October 10	Old Testament: <i>Genesis</i> (Ch. 1-25) <i>Exodus</i> (Ch. 1-20)
October 15	No Class: Mid-semester Break
October 17	New Testament: <i>The Gospel According to St. Matthew</i> (Ch. 1-12)
October 22	<i>Koran (Suras 1-5)</i>
October 24	<i>Nathan the Wise</i> (entire play)

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

October 29 & 31	Locke "Second Treatise" (esp. pp. 3-56; 68-73; 75-82; 96-99; 119-139)
November 5 & 7	Marx: <u>The Communist Manifesto</u> Reserve: Lenin
November 12 & 14	Reserve: Mussolini (Fascism) Hitler (Nazism)
November 19	Their Voice In Class Project (attendance is mandatory!)
November 21	EXAM 2
November 26 & 28	NO CLASS TG HOLIDAY

III. Politics: Goals and Limits

December 3 & 5

Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"

December 10

Shakespeare: "The Tempest"

December 12
12PM)

CUMULATIVE FINAL (9AM-

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