

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

East Village 157
Tu, Th 11:30 – 12:45
Spring 2011

Jill M. Fortney, M.A.
Seney 115-A
Phone: (865) 805 -5658
Email: jmfortney@gmail.com
Hours: 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 will 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 quiz or test will result in a grade of zero for that test. The scheduled dates for these tests are **February 15th and March 29th**. A comprehensive final examination is scheduled. The final exam will count for 25% of the student's final grade. In addition, there will be no 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. Students will also be required to participate in group presentations of *New York Times* articles, dates/times TBD. **All examinations, tests, and quizzes are cumulative.**

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS DISTURBANCE

Cell phones, pagers, and beepers are permitted in class as long as they are fully silenced (not on vibrate) and not in use. 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.

MAKE-UP WORK:

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. 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. If a student must be absent for a compelling reason (death/hospitalization/dismemberment), it is the student's responsibility to inform the professor and schedule a make-up for lectures/quizzes/exams in a timely manner. "Compelling" reasons for absence will be determined at the discretion of the professor.

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code (See the 2010-2011 Online Catalog of Oxford College). The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it. When in doubt, ask first!

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. **Unless otherwise notified in class, students should complete the reading assignments for each chapter by the first day scheduled for discussion of that chapter on the outline.** The reading assignments listed below may be modified from time to time or supplemented with additional photocopied case materials supplied in class.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on pages 82-83 of the Online Catalog 2010-2011 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. 18: **Introduction**

I. THE ROOTS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Jan. 20, 25: Sophocles: "Antigone" (entire)

Jan. 27; Feb. 1: Plato: "Apology of Socrates"
Feb. 3: Plato: "Crito"

Feb. 8, 10: Aristotle: The Politics, Book I
Feb. 15, 17: Aristotle: The Politics, Book III

Feb. 22: TEST 1

Feb. 24: E Reserve readings from *Genesis* (ch. 1-25), *Exodus* (ch. 1-20)

Mar. 1: *The Gospel According to Matthew* (ch. 1-12) Text reserve
Mar. 3: E Reserve readings from the *Koran* (Suras 1-5 of Arberry translation)

Mar. 15: Lessing: "Nathan the Wise" (entire play only)
Mar. 17: E Reserve readings from *Njal's Saga* (ch. 1 – 24)

Mar. 8,10 **SPRING BREAK!!!**

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

Mar. 22,24: Locke, "Second Treatise," pp. 3-56, 68-73, 75-82, 96-99, 119-139

Mar. 29, 31: "The Communist Manifesto" (all) + E Reserve material on Lenin (Reserve material from "Imperialism . . ." and "The State and Revolution" (due 11/5)

Apr. 5: TEST II

Apr. 7, 12: E Reserve material on fascism (Mussolini) and Nazism (Hitler)

III. THE GOALS AND LIMITS OF POLITICS

Apr. 14: Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"

Apr. 19: "I Have a Dream"

Apr. 21, 26: Shakespeare: "The Tempest" & Conclusion

May 2, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Final Examination