

**Introduction to Politics
Political Science 101.09A
Fall, 2009
Syllabus**

**Read all the information in this document carefully, so
you are not surprised by requirements you may find
onerous.**

**September 1, 2009 – Last day for changing courses.
October 16, 2009 – Last day for dropping courses
without academic penalty.**

**The Honor Code is in force and will be
followed completely in this course.**

Introduction to Politics
Political Science 101.09A
Fall, 2009
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. 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 available in the bookstore. You may sometimes wonder why the international articles in The Times are assigned and why you are quizzed on them. We will probably not discuss these articles at any great length, unless some world crisis comes up. The reason is two-fold. First, while “current events” and “politics” are not the same thing, it is often impossible to offer political examples without referring to “current events.” Second, most college students (do not take this personally, and it may not apply to you personally) do not know anything about international affairs, international geography, or cultures other than their own. In order to understand politics, one must possess such information. An introductory course in politics cannot work without introducing students to these collateral issues. On the other hand, we simply do not have time for partisan debates over emotional issues. Indeed, I do not want to know how you “feel” about what we will study, but I am keenly interested in what you “think.” Thought is characterized by offering evidence and using logical argument, not by emoting. Sometimes the distinction can be difficult to maintain, for instance, when discussing genocide, which is inherently and properly an “emotional” issue.

“short”
does not
mean
“easy.”

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, an in-class 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. ~~Thirteen will be given over the course of the semester, of which ten will count toward your grade.~~ If you are absent for more than three, 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. **Quizzes cannot be “made up,” so be careful not to miss quizzes for trivial reasons.** There are simply too many quizzes for me to offer make up quizzes at a similar level of difficulty to the one you missed. In order to do well on the quizzes, you will have to be prepared for each class. In order to do well in the course, you will have to do well on the quizzes. **This course rewards effort and preparation, and penalizes lack of preparation and “cramming.”** You should take note of these facts as you determine what you wish your future in this class to be.

One of the first three will be on the material in the syllabus.

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. I simply will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. If you cheat, plagiarize, or take someone else’s work as your own, I will take it to Honor Council and pursue the case. This is not negotiable, and there are no excuses for academic dishonesty. Plus/minus grading will not be in effect in this course.

My office is Seney 303. My office phone is 4-8334. My e-mail address is bshapir@emory.edu **and this is the preferred method of communication, either directly or through the class conference on learnlink. Office hours are by appointment**, though I am *usually* there from 8:00 to 8:30am and from 10:30 to 11:30am most MWF mornings, **but you should make an appointment if you want to be sure I will be there.**

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Classes begin at 9:35am and conclude at 10:25am

August 26, 28: Introduction, Handout

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

Aug. 31, Sept. 2, 4: “Antigone”

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sept. 7 (Labor Day): | No class |
| Sept. 9, 11, 14, 16: | “Apology” and “Crito” |
| Sept. 18, 21: | <u>The Politics</u> , Book I, chaps. 1-7 |
| Sept. 23, 25, 30: | <u>The Politics</u> , Book III |
| Sept. 28: | No class (Yom Kippur) |
| Oct. 2, 5, 7: | from “Genesis” and “Deuteronomy” from “The Gospel According to St. Matthew” from <u>The Koran</u> “Nathan the Wise.” |

| |
|--|
| More specific page references will be given in late September. |
|--|

Oct. 8 (8:30am): **Exam**

Oct. 12: No class (mid-semester break)

Modern Politics: Liberal Democracy, Communism, and Fascism

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Oct. 9, 14, 16, 19, 21: | <u>The Second Treatise of Government</u> |
| Oct. 23, 26, 28, 30: | “The Communist Manifesto” |
| Nov. 2, 4: | On reserve: Lenin |
| Nov. 6, 9, 11: | On reserve: Mussolini and Hitler |

Nov. 12 (8:30am): **Exam**

The Goals and Limits of Politics: Must they be in Tension?

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Nov. 13, 16: | “An Enemy of the People” |
| Nov. 18, 20: | On reserve: speeches of King, Churchill |
| Nov. 23, 30; Dec. 2, 4: | “The Tempest.” |

Dec. 3 (8:30am): **Essay Exam.**

Dec. 7: Conclusion

Dec. 10: Reading Day

I take attendance every day because it is my legal obligation to know who is in my class, and it is my community obligation to be able to inform other professors and appropriate people if you are cutting class. However, I do not penalize your grade for a specific number of cuts. On the other hand, if you have read this syllabus carefully, you do understand that it is impossible to do well in this course without attending and being prepared.

You need to check the class conference regularly. Material on it is part of the course, and you will be quizzed on it.

There will be no class September 7 because it is Labor Day. There will be no class on September 28 because I will be observing a religious holiday (Yom Kippur). There will be no class on October 12 because it is mid-semester break.

From time to time it is possible I will have to cancel class because of circumstances beyond my control. These classes will be made up, usually in the early morning during the week (7:30am to 8:20am) or on Sunday, because that is when there are no conflicts. If you consider this an undue hardship, you should think twice about taking this course with me as the instructor.