

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

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Class Conference:
BLACKBOARD: POLITICAL SCIENCE 101

Drop In Hours:
TU & TH 10AM-12Noon & 4-5PM
WED 12 Noon-4PM
And By Appointment

Teaching Assistants:
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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): 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 justice?

In Political Science 101, 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. What we seek to train you to do in Political Science 101 is to make cogent and support arguments (both in oral and written form) based on your hard thinking about the material you are exposed to in this course.

INQUIRY COURSE

This course is patterned after the INQ approach (Ways of Inquiry) Oxford has made an essential component of our General Education Program (GEP). 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.

What does INQ mean?

Most classes will be devoted to lecture and question based/driven 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 the readings. Write down your questions and I will collect these randomly for a grade. Your classmates will be reading your questions as part of the discussion through the “question exchange.”

DIALOGUES

As a major component of your grade in the course, you will be assigned to group of 4 in which you will write and perform a “dialogue.” I will assign the group a current news story and a general question to explore and examine through the writing, collaborating, and performing of your dialogue. Each group dialogue will be filmed and the dialogue will be typed and turned in to me after you perform it. A grade will be assigned based on group and individual

effort on both written and oral components of the dialogue. You will be receiving a more detailed overview of the dialogue, due dates and the like from me once drop add is over August 31.

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-Friday

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:

Class Questions & Discussion 50 points

Quizzes 50 points

DIALOGUE 50 POINTS

EXAM 1 50 POINTS

EXAM 2 50 POINTS

FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM 100

350 Possible Points

Plus-Minus Grading Scale will be used

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. If you miss more than 2, you will receive a 0 for that quiz. 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 25

OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS

I. Political Philosophy: The Ancients & Our Foundations

August 30 & September 1

Sophocles: "Antigone"

September 6 & 8

Plato: "Apology of Socrates"

September 13

Plato: "Crito"

September 15 & 20

Aristotle: The Politics, *Book 1*

September 22 & 27

Aristotle: The Politics, *Book III*

September 29

EXAM 1

October 4	Old Testament: <i>Genesis</i> (Ch. 1-25) <i>Exodus</i> (Ch. 1-20)
October 6	New Testament: <i>The Gospel According to St. Matthew</i> (Ch. 1-12)
October 11	MIDSEMESTER BREAK OFF
October 13	<i>Koran (Suras 1-5)</i>
October 18	<i>Nathan the Wise</i> (entire play)
October 20 & 25	IN CLASS DIALOGUES

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

October 27 & November 1	Locke "Second Treatise" (esp. pp. 3-56; 68-73; 75-82; 96-99; 119-139)
November 3 & 8	Marx: <u>The Communist Manifesto</u>
November 10	Reserve: Lenin
November 15 & 17	Reserve: Mussolini (Fascism) & Hitler (Nazism)
November 22	EXAM 2
November 24	OFF TG HOLIDAY

III. Politics: Goals and Limits

November 29 & December 1

Ibsen: "An Enemy of the People"

December 6

Shakespeare: "The Tempest"

December 13
PM)

CUMULATIVE FINAL (7-9