

FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF POLITICS

Political Science 1001/1002
Section 1

C. L. Eubanks
Fall 2018

Part I: The Origins of Political Consciousness

Topics: The Principle of Subjectivity & the

Political Being

Authority: Traditional/Customary and Rational/Legal

Society & State

The Nation-State

State: as -- Natural; Violent; Order; Familial; Divine; Contract

R

Part VI: The Tendency of Power (the State) Toward Totalization

Bureaucracy & the State
 The Case of National Socialism
 The Stateless Individual
 War, Death, and the State
 Leaders Choosing their Voters; Not Voters Choosing their Leaders
 Voter Suppression
 Gerrymandering
 Single-Member Districts
 Homo Economicus: Neoliberalism

Readings: Hannah Arendt, Ideology and Terror
 What Interview of Wendy Brown
 (<https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/booked-3-what-exactly-is-neoliberalism-wendy-brown-undoing-the-demos>)
 (<http://www.resort.com/~prime8/Orwell/patee.html>)

*****EXAMINATION TWO TENTATIVE DATE: NOVEMBER 5*****

Part VII: Resistance to the State Structure

Topics: Characteristics of Democratic Republics
 Majority Rule and Minority Rights
 Conflict Resolution in a Democracy
 The Discourse of Democratic Politics
 John Rawls on Justice as Fairness

Part VIII: Resistance to the State Process

- Topics: Revolution
Civil Disobedience
Freedom & Identity
Freedom & Ambiguity
Moral Literacy
- Readings: Declaration of Independence (Esp. second paragraph)
(<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/index.htm>)
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*
Sophocles, *Antigone*
*W. Berry, *Fidelity*
**Henry David Thoreau, Essay on Civil Disobedience
(<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/WALDEN/Essays/civil.html>)
**Martin Luther King, Jr.
(http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)
*Dostoevsky, *The Grand Inquisitor*

Part IX: Living in the State: The Philosopher, the Citizen, & the City

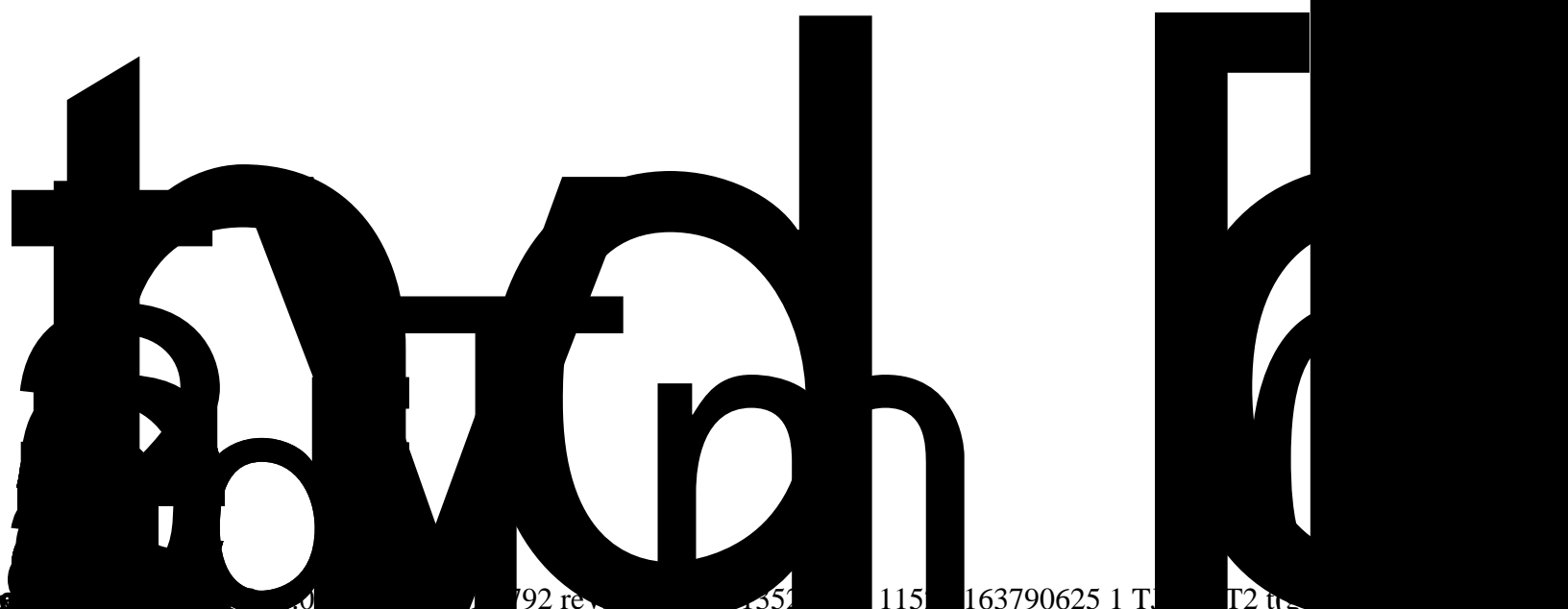
- Topics: Peric Model of Citizenship
Socratic Model of Citizenship
Moral Literacy -- Revisited
Caring for the Soul
Constant Self-Examination
Relentless Moral Energy
Moral Imagination
Civic Virtue, Judgment, Skepticism & Ambiguity
Thoughtfulness
- Readings: ** Pericle Funeral Orati Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*
(<https://online.hilldale.edu/document.doc?id=355>)
**Plato, *Apology* (<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>)
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book X
(<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>)

The Atlantic, April 2017

**FINAL EXAMINATION: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, FROM 10:00 AM TO NOON
DODSON AUDITORIUM**

COURSE OBJECTIVES: As the title of the course indicates, we are going to examine the **FUNDAMENTALS** of politics. We will begin with the origins of political consciousness and of the state. Thereafter, we will examine the justifications for the state and the totalization of power, as well as the moral/ethical obligations we have to the state. As we do this, our task will be to learn how to construct and defend normative arguments about politics and to engage in the empirical study of politics. By its very nature, then, this course is an exploration of ideas and emphasizes a critical understanding of theoretical perspectives on politics.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES: This course is a general education elective. Thus, it is designed to contribute to your understanding of self and of culture and to encourage critical and analytical thinking as well as a precise and graceful use of language. Toward the latter end you should purchase and use a good dictionary, or at the very least consistently access the Merriam Webster Dictionary. 2 Tm0 g0 G 0.024 T



Course Examinations and Graded Assignments Summary

Examination #1	=	35 points
Examination #2	=	35 points
Distributive Justice Project	=	20 points
Final Exam	=	70 points
Six Reading Quizzes	=	30 points
Attendance	=	10 points
Total	=	200 points

GRADES: E