

Political Science 1001.01
Fundamental Issues of Politics
Louisiana State University
Spring 2022

Course Description:

Behind political conflict and the game of politics—campaigns and elections, pundits and commentators, policy analysts and advocates, protesters and authorities, behind even those who fight and die—lie certain fundamental issues that persist from generation to generation and that give political life its energy and form. In this course, we will begin to explore several such issues: the question of justice at war, the question of the role of government in relation to the economy, the question of constitutional design, and the question of the cultural foundations of political freedom.

We will read several books in this course, most of them written relatively recently, but we will also sample several great works of political philosophy. Lectures, quizzes, and tests will be designed around the reading assignments, which are given in the syllabus class by class. To succeed in the course, you should come to class having read the assignment for that day—a daily quiz will give you an incentive to keep up—and having thought about its significance for our study.

Professor:

James R. Stoner, Jr.
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Teaching Assistant:

Peidong Wu
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Office Hours:

M, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
F, 9:00–10:00 a.m., and by appointment
Stubbs 214

M, 11:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
Th, 10:30 a.m.–1:20 p.m.
Stubbs 334

Class Time and Location:

MWF 10:30–11:20 a.m. Dodson Auditorium

Attendance: Attendance in class is expected, unless you are ill, have been required to isolate or quarantine due to covid-19, or a similar emergency. For those who cannot attend in person, the lecture will be webcast synchronously on Zoom. You must email Peidong Wu (and copy Prof. Stoner) before class to get _____-cast.

Class Discussion: The instructor will pause for questions during lecture and encourages you to speak up. For students, the Chatham House Rule applies: no student question or comment made in class should be attributed to the speaker outside of class. Please show courtesy to one another, of course.

We are now mandated to add the following:
students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines
and perspectives. The LSU Integ

Fri., Mar. 4: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, I-II, q. 91, aa. 1-4; q. 94, aa. 1-6; q. 95, aa. 1-2; q. 97, aa. 1-4

Mon., Mar. 7: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651), chapters 13, 14 (para. 1-9), 15, 17-18

Wed., Mar. 9: John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690), chs. 5, 19

Fri., Mar. 11: The Declaration of Independence
There a Political Philosophy in the Declaration of Independence *Intercollegiate Review* (2005)

[Spring Break]

IV. Forming and Re-Forming Government

Mon., Mar. 21: Constitution of the United States;
 sylvania
 Wootton, ed., *Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*, pp. 326-337, 3-24

Wed., Mar. 23: *The Federalist* ##1, 10, 14-15, 39 in Wootton, pp. 140-143, 167-174, 179-190, 225-231

Fri., Mar. 25: *The Federalist* ##47-51 in Wootton, pp. 231-250

Mon., Mar. 28: Brutus #15, *The Federalist* ##55, 57, 62, 70, 78 in Wootton, pp. 92-96, 254-268, 275-289

Wed., Mar. 30:

Fri., Apr. 1:
Perspectives on Political Science (2017)
 Burdett Loomis (pro) and Byron E. Shafer (con) Resolved, The president should be elected directly by the people in Richard Ellis and Michael Nelson, eds., *Debating the Presidency*, 4th ed. (CQ Press, 2018)

Mon., Apr. 4:
Journal of Democracy (January 2020)

Wed., Apr. 6:
Foreign Affairs (July/August 2001)

Affairs (Sept/Oct 2001)

Fri., Apr. 8: Test

V. Character and Culture

Mon., Apr. 11 Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, pp. 20-61

Wed., Apr. 13: Bloom, pp. 62-81, 313-335

[Good Friday/Easter Break]

Mon., Apr. 18: Bloom, pp. 336-382

Wed., Apr. 20: Shelby Steele, *White Guilt*, pp. 3-56

Fri., Apr. 22: Steele, pp. 57-110

Mon., Apr. 25: Steele, pp. 113-181

Wed., Apr. 27: Erika Bachiochi, *Rights of Women*, introduction, chapter 1

Fri, Apr. 29: Bachiochi, chapters 4, 7

Mon., May 2: Bachiochi, chapters 8-9

Wed.,