




POLI 2060: Introduction to Political Theory
 M W F 10:30 – 11:20
 CoatesHall: 130
 Fall 2021

 Thomas Cloud
 Stubbs 310: email: tcloud4@lsu.edu

 Monday and Friday 11:30 – 12:30, and by appointment.

 Welcome to Intro to Political Theory. I am very excited to teach you. I was once told by a professor that he envied my reading Aristotle for the first time. I understand now why he said that. I hope you will understand by the end of the semester. There are many things as beautiful as sunsets just waiting to be seen.

This course could just as easily be called “Intro to Critical Reading.” Critical reading is a skill like any other. It requires dedication and good practice. I say “good” practice because you need to practice the right way in order to master it. I will co t y(y i)7.7 (y i).7 (1w7 t)1 questions we have to act as if we have answers. How we answer these two questions, in our words and our actions, touches every aspect of our own lives and the lives of all who come after us.

Throughout the semester we will meet some fascinating, subtle, and sometimes troubling figures each with their own explanations of what politics is and the way of life it demands. Often these figures will disagree with each other (and you with

Flashcards are one of the greatest learning tools out there. Apps like Anki actually improve upon them. There are a few things to remember about flashcards.

1. It is better to have many short flashcards than a handful of long ones.
2. If you do not remember what is on the back of a flashcard, always struggle



Attendance, Integrity, and Access

University education is a great privilege, offered to all with the ability and the willingness to learn, without obstacles based on race, sex, or other aspects of personal identity. Students would be foolish to squander their opportunity by unexcused absence from class or by academic dishonesty. Please consult linked LSU policies.

I will emphasize that plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity and will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves LSU's plagiarism policies.



Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of **Social/Behavioral Sciences** and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of **Inquiry and Analysis**.



Your health and safety are LSU's top priority. If you are feeling ill or overwhelmed with anxiety, please contact the [LSU Student Health Center](#) for medical advice and mental health support.

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Students should always bring the text we are discussing to class.

A Students Guide to Political Philosophy by Harvey C. Mansfield ISI ISBN:978-1882926435

The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli translated by Harvey C. Mansfield, second edition ISBN: 978-0226500447

Four Texts on Socrates

Monday August 30 – Chapters 4 to 7 of The Prince

Wednesday September 1 – Chapters 8 to 11 of The Prince

Friday September 3 – Quiz 2 Chapters 12 to 14 of The Prince

Monday September 6 – Labor Day. No Class

Wednesday September 8 – Chapters 4 to 11 of The Prince

Friday September 10 – Quiz 2 Chapters 12 to 14 of The Prince

(Weekend makeup lectures via Zoom recording. Chapters 15 to 19 of The Prince)

Monday September 13 – Quiz 3

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- x Ch. 26 ¶¶ 1-9, 13, 23-24 (pp.172-175, 177, 181-182)
- x Ch. 27 ¶¶ 1-8 (pp.190-192)
- x Ch. 29 ¶¶ 6-16 (212-217)

Monday November 8 – Midterm 2

Wednesday November 10 – G.K. Chesterton “What is America?” Moodle

Friday November 12 – Quiz 11 Declaration of Independence, John Jay “Letter on Manumission of Slaves.” Moodle

Monday November 15 – Selections from the Federalists Moodle

Wednesday November 17 – Selections from Calhoun and Lincoln Moodle

Friday November 19 – Quiz 12 “The Study of Administration” by Woodrow Wilson. Moodle

Monday November 22 – Condorcet “Progress” Moodle

Wednesday November 24 – Thanksgiving Break.

Friday November 26 – No Class

Monday November 29 – “Idea for a Universal History” by Immanuel Kant, Moodle

Wednesday December 1 (6316) (c)5b e-2.5 (n)-2.10 Td()Tj0.004 Tc -0.003D