

POLI 2060 Intro to Political Theory, Tuesday, and Thursday, 12:00-1:20pm, Lockett Hall 239, Fall 2021

Instructor:

Jake Harvey

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Office Hours

Monday: 11-1pm, also schedule by appointment in Stubbs Hall 308

Introduction

This course will serve introduce critical analysis of noteworthy texts of political philosophy, as well as the opportunity for you to investigate and articulate your own political beliefs. This course will hone your ability at critical reading, being able to comprehend and dissect what the

double spaced that will answer a prompt that I will provide. Since there will be in person quizzes make sure to have paper and something to write with when entering class.

Midterm

The format will involve 8-10 quotes from the thinkers we have been reading in which you will need to identify the name of the philosopher that made the quote, the name of the book or dialogue of the quote, the context the quote was made in and the significance of the quote as it relates to the text. Midterm will be on October 12th.

Essay of Chosen Thinker

There is a possibility that you were hoping to read a particular philosopher in this class but don't see his or hers name on the list. To make up for it, I am providing a list of books that you can read in addition to the other books. You will select a work and draft a five-page paper on the book, providing your own analysis on the work and how it compares to other thinkers we are reading. The reasoning for this is twofold. One, I want to see you apply your powers of critical analysis to a text, especially as we have worked to develop it over the semester. Second, it's an opportunity for you to investigate thinkers that you may be drawn to and be able to read them as well. Many of the thinkers available can be found at the library or online in pdfs, such as [EMT - Texts \(earlymoderntexts.com\)](http://EMT-Texts.earlymoderntexts.com). I'll send out a list of books you can write about, and a response will be needed by February 9th. If you wish to pick a different book, discuss it with me and I'll let you know if it works or not, though the book you wish to write on should be 100-150 pages long. The paper will be due Nov. 18th

Final Essay

This will involve writing two responses, one a 4-5-page paper, the other response will be 1-2 pages. This will be a take home assignment and turned in on Moodle. It will involve answering two out of three possible prompts that I will provide that will ask you to compare and critique different thinkers that we have read this semester. The final is due by Dec. 9th at 5pm.

Grading Scale

- A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)
- B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)
- C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)
- D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)
- F (below 60%)

Required Books

- Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates*, ISBN: 9780801485749
- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, ISBN: 9780199213610
- Plutarch, *Plutarch's Lives Volume II*, ISBN: 9780375756771

- Boethius, *The Consolation Of Philosophy*, **ISBN:** 9780140447804
- Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, 9780872201507
- Abraham Lincoln, *The Portable Abraham Lincoln*, 9780143105640
- Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, **ISBN:** 9780140449235
- Camus, *Caligula and 3 Other Plays*, **ISBN:** 9780394702070

University Policies

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. 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.

<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/academicintegrity/index.php>

University Statement on Integrated Learning

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSUity

COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

Week 1: August 24th & 26th

- 24th: Syllabus day
- 26th: Plato Euthyphro (pgs. 41-61)

Week 2: August 31st & Sept. 2nd

- 31st: Plato Apology (pgs. 63-81)
- 2nd: Plato Apology and discussion on Relative vs. Objective Morality (pgs. 81-96)

Week 3: September 7th & 9th

- 7th: Aristotle Book I-II (pgs. 3-37)
- 9th: Aristotle Book V (pgs. 81-101)
- **9th: Socrates Mini Essay due on the 9th by 11:59pm**

Week 4: September 14th & 16th

- 14th: Aristotle Book 7 (pgs. 118-141)
- 16th: Aristotle Book 8 (pgs. 142-162)

Week 5: September 21st & 23rd

- 21st Decision for chosen thinker essay
- 21st : Aristotle Book 9-10 (pgs. 163-203)
- 23rd: Plutarch Caesar(pg. 199-244)

Week 6: September 28th & 30th

- 28th: Plutarch Cato the Younger (pgs. 270-317)
- **28th Mini essay for Aristotle due by 11:59pm**
- 30th: Plutarch Cicero (pgs. 408-441)

Week 7: October 5th & 7th

- 5th : Boethius Book I-II (pgs. 3-46).
- 7th: Boethius Book III (pgs. 47-84)
- **7th : Plutarch Mini Essay due by 11: 59pm**

Week 8: October 12th & 14th

- 12th: **Midterm**
- 14th: Boethius Book IV (pgs. 85-115)

Week 9: October 19th & 21st

- 19th : Rousseau: (pgs. 3-37)
- 21st : Rousseau (pgs. 37-71) (Fall Break)

21st : Boethius mini essay due by 11:59pm

Week 10: October 26th & 28th

- 26th: Lincoln Address to the Young Men's lyceum (pgs. 17-26) and The first half of Lincoln speech in Lincoln-Douglass Nebraska debate (pgs. 42-62)
- 28th: Lincoln second half of the Lincoln Douglass Nebraska debate (pgs. 42-62), The Dred Scott decision (pgs. 87-100), and the house divided cannot stand speech pgs. (100-109)
- **28th : Rousseau mini essay due by 11:59pm**

Week 11: November 2nd & 4th

- 2nd: "Address to the Wisconsin state agricultural society (pgs. 181-192), Address at Cooper institute (pgs. 197-218)
- 4th: First Inaugural address (pgs. 226-235) Annual message to congress (pgs. 277-299) Gettysburg Address (pgs. 323-324) Speech on Reconstruction (pgs. 352-357)

Week 12: Nov 9th & 11th

- 9th: Nietzsche Chapter 1 (pgs. 31-54)
- 11th: Nietzsche Chapter 2-3 (pgs. 55-89)
- **11th D pgD**

Final: December 9th by 5pm