

## **POLI 2060 Introduction to Political Theory**

MWF: 2:30-3:20 PM  
112 Audubon Hall

Instructor: Mr. Stephen Savage  
Instructor Email: [ssavag5@lsu.edu](mailto:ssavag5@lsu.edu)  
Office Hours: MW 1:20-2:20 PM and by appointment

### **Course Objective:**

This course will provide undergraduate students with a general introduction to the field of political theory. As it is only an introductory course, the course will primarily focus on giving students a general introduction to the major works in the field and secondarily, will work to provide students with an introduction to other works in the field. By the end of the course students should be able to identify several of the key figures in the field of political theory and understand the importance of political theory to the study of politics.

This course is a general education course and has been designed with the LSU learning competency statement in mind: "LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference."

## **Structure of the Course:**

The principal aim of this course is to acquaint students with several of the major thinkers in the field of political theory. The course will be divided into 4 units, with each having a theme that unites the assigned readings. The first unit will focus on Ancient Greece and the beginning of Western political thought. The second unit will focus on the shift from the ancient focus on right order to the shift toward order. The third unit will look at authors who provide alternative or critical views of thinkers featured in the first two units. The final unit will serve as an answer to the question of why we should still study political theory.

### **Unit One: Ancient Greece: The Search for Right Order**

-Aeschylus: The Oresteia

-Plato: Apology, Crito, The Republic

-Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics

### **Unit Two: From Right Order to Order**

-Hobbes: The Leviathan

-John Locke:

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

From time to time we will stop to discuss the readings and issues that surround them. Classroom etiquette requires that students be attentive and respectful to one another (this means listening when others are making comments or asking questions). Please make sure that your phones and