

POLI 2060 Intro to Political Theory, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-2:50pm, Coates Hall 214, Spring 2021

Instructor:

Jake Harvey

Email: Jharv34@lsu.edu

Office Hours

Friday: 11-1pm, also schedule by appointment

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 texts are arguing for. Even when the authors don't come right out and state an opinion, this class should help you "read between the lines". The thinkers we intend to investigate have had a significant impact on philosophy and politics and should help guide you into knowing more about your beliefs and where they originate from.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Quizzes 15%

Midterm : 20%

Essay on Chosen thinker: 20%

Final Essay: 30%

Class Participation

Attendance is expected in the class. You are allowed two unexcused absences, followed by deduction from your class participation grade if any absence is unexcused. If you have five unexcused absences, then you'll receive no credit for class participation. If there needs to be an excused absence, make sure to send me an email to get confirmation on approval.

On top of this, it will be important for students to communicate their thoughts and analysis of the text as much as possible. It's important to understand your perspective as it is equally important for you to understand and respect the perspective of your fellow classmates.

Quizzes

Required Books

- Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates*, **ISBN:** 9780801485749
- Aristotle, *Politics*, **ISBN:** 9780226921846
- Dante, *Monarchy*, **ISBN:** 9780521567817
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, **ISBN:** 9780226500447
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, **ISBN:** 9780915144860
- David Wootton, *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* (Hackett Classics),
ISBN: 9780872206557
- Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, **ISBN:** 9780140447576

Readings on Moodle

I will post some readings on Moodle. It would be preferred that you print them out, but you can for class use a laptop or smart pad if needed.

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>

COVID-19 Statement We remain under pandemic conditions and as such the following precautions will be enforced throughout the semester

1. If sick or feeling sick, send an email and do not attend class. Some form of proof should be provided as well.
2. Wear face mask
3. Cough or sneeze in elbow
4. Make sure to complete your daily symptom checker
5. If feeling sick or concerned, make sure to go to LSU's Student Health Center
6. Wipe down desk before leaving

Week 1: January 12th & 14th

12th: Syllabus day

14th: Aristophanes: The Cloud (pgs. 115-146)

Week 2: January 19th & 21st

19th: Finish the clouds (pgs. 146-176)

21st: Plato: Euthyphro & Apology (pgs. 41-78)

Week 3: January 26th & 28th

26th: Plato: Apology & Crito (pgs.78-114)

23rd: Discuss Book 6-8 (pgs. 170-238)

25th: Dante Book I (pgs. 3-29)

25th: Aristotle Mini Essay due before midnight

Week 8: March 2nd & 4th

2nd: Aristotle Mini Essay due before midnight

2nd: Dante Book II (pgs. 30-62)

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