

Introduction to Political Philosophy
Temple University
Political Science 2496, Section 006
Ritter 103 – Tuesday & Thursday 3:20-4:50pm

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Purpose of the Course

What is the true nature of a human being? How does our nature affect the way we relate to others in the world? What does the state of nature look like? What system of government is most effective? What makes a good leader? What makes a good citizen? What makes a government legitimate? What is justice? What is morality? What is power? How do we use principles of justice, morality and power to shape our world? In this course, we will look at how some of the most important philosophers have attempted to answer these questions by critically engaging the texts that comprise the canon of political philosophy.

Prerequisites

Students enrolled in this class should have completed English 1002 (C050) or English 0802. If you have not completed this course, please come and see me. The University considers this a writing intensive course, and students should have taken at least one course to prepare them with basic composition skills.

Course Material

Because this course is intended to be a survey of the relevant theorists in political philosophy, there are quite a few authors that we need to cover. In order to minimize the expense for students and to alleviate confusion on what passages are required all of the selected readings for the semester have been placed on Blackboard. We will stick to the course schedule provided. Readings are arranged by week under the “my documents” tab of this course’s Blackboard page. *Students should bring the readings to class.*

Assignments

Grade Breakdown

Participation	10%
Critical Responses	60% (4 at 15% each)
Manifesto	15%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Grading

All graded work will be evaluated on a 25 point scale using the rubric attached to this syllabus. When each assignment is returned, you will be given the overall grade as well as the totals for each of the rubric’s categories. Be aware that a significant portion of your grade will depend on the technical writing of each assignment, 10 of 25 points. I strongly encourage students to take advantage of the University’s writing center early in the semester.

Participation (10%)

You are expected to participate in every class. I believe very strongly that students (and professors) learn best when we learn from each other. Attendance alone does not count towards any part of your grade. Your participation grade will be comprised of participation both in class and on-line. On this note, I expect that students treat each other in a courteous and respectful manner. Failure to act in a collegial spirit will result in a lowered participation grade. You can also earn participation points outside the classroom, if you wish. You can come to my office hours to discuss the readings or your thoughts on that week's topic, send me an article that you found interesting and relevant to the course, or even suggest a film clip for the class to watch.

Critical Responses (15% each)

Throughout the semester you will be responsible for engaging in four short (approximately 5 pages) response papers. In these papers you will need to demonstrate an understanding of the texts and evaluate the arguments and ideas presented. You may address one theorist, or compare theorists that address the same issue, the topic of these responses is fairly open to your interests but must be relevant to the assigned or discussed course work. When submitting your written work, it should be in a standard format – one inch margins, 11 or 12 pt. font, double spaced, etc. Critical responses will be due every Tuesday at the beginning of class. Each student will have the opportunity to rewrite a critical response if they are unhappy with the grade they received, but the rewrite must be submitted no later than Tuesday November 29th along with the marked original.

Manifesto (15%)

Education at its broadest has two main goals: to teach you what others think and to teach you to think. While the other writing assignments for this course require you to critically engage the texts and focus on how well others convey their thoughts, this paper will ask you to examine and effectively convey your own thoughts. The ultimate purpose of political theorizing is to be efficacious – to incite action and encourage real change in the world. In at least 6 pages, logically explain your personal manifesto addressing one or several of the major themes in political theory and how they relate to the way things are in the world, the way things could be, or both. You should draw inspiration from some theorists discussed in this course or from external sources and demonstrate your understanding of their theories, but the point of this project is to develop your own opinions in a logical, coherent, and compelling manner. Your manifesto will be due in Blackboard's digital drop box by midnight on December 10th.

Final Exam (15%)

At the conclusion of the semester, during finals week, a cumulative exam will be given. The exam will be primarily short answer questions. On the final day of classes, I will provide a list of several questions and topics that will be covered in the final exam that you may use to aid in your studying. The final exam is closed note/book.

Late Work Policy

If extenuating circumstances arise, you may request an extension, but will need to supply some sort of proof of the major, significant, or highly unusual nature of the situation. Simply asking for an extension does not guarantee you will be granted one. If you do not submit a paper on time, the grade on the paper will drop by one letter grade every 24 hours until it is turned in.

University Policies

Plagiarism & Cheating

Academic dishonesty, i.e. plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Please remember that all work must conform to Temple University's policy on academic honesty found in the Temple University Bulletin. All work that you submit must be the result of your own efforts. Any student that is found to be copying another student's work, plagiarizing or any other violation of academic honesty will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment or exam. Under some circumstances, a course grade of 0 may be given and the matter may be referred to the University Dean. Do not cheat.

Policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities

As an academic institution, Temple University exists for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. The University and the faculty have a responsibility to provide students with opportunities and protections that promote the learning process in all its aspects. Students similarly should exercise their freedom with responsibility. For more information on your Academic Rights, please see Temple's full statement available from Temple's homepage.

Disability Disclosure

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Additionally, students should contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Course Schedule

August 30 th	Introduction
September 1 st	Thucydides' Melian Dialogue
September 6 th	Plato's <i>The Republic</i> Selections
September 8 th	Plato's <i>The Republic</i> – readings same as September 6th
September 13 th	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i> Selections: Book 1, Ch 1-7, 12-13 and Book 3 Ch 1
September 15 th	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i> Selections: Book 4, Ch 1, 5-9, 11-12 and Book 5 Ch 8
September 20 th	Seneca's <i>On Anger</i> Selections

September 22nd No Readings Assigned

September 27th Machiavelli's *The Prince*

September 29th Machiavelli's *The Prince*

October 4th Machiavelli's *The Discourses*

October 6th No Reading Assigned

October 11th Hobbes' *Leviathan*
 Selections: Introduction, Ch 1-6, 7, 10-22, 24, 26, 27-30

October 13th Hobbes' *Leviathan*; reading same as October 11th

October 18th Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*
 Selections: 1-5, 7, 10

October 20th Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*
 Selections: 11-19

October 25th Rousseau's *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* and *On the Social Contract*
 Selections from DOol: page 69-end
 Selections from OSC: Bk 1

October 27th: Rousseau's *On the Social Contract* continued
 Selections: Bk 2, Bk 3: Ch 1-6, 15-18, Bk 4: Ch 1, 2, 8, 10

November 1st: Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (Selections), Mill's *On Liberty* (Selections), Kant

November 3rd: Engels & Marx's *Manifesto of the Communist Party* and Graveside Speech

November 8th: Marx's *Theses on Feuerbach* and *Das Kapital*
 Selections for *Das Kapital*: TBA

November 10th: Mazzini – *The Duties of Man*, Mussolini's *Doctrine on Fascism*, and Hitler's *Mein Kampf*

November 15th: Nietzsche – selections from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, *The Antichrist*, and *Genealogy of Morals*

November 17th: Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth*
 Chapters: "On Violence" and "Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness"

November 22nd: No Class

November 24th: No Class

November 29th: Goldman's *Anarchism*, Guevara's *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, and selections of Lenin

December 1st: TBA

December 6th: TBA

December 15th: Final Exam 1pm-3pm