

## Introduction to Political Theory

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MWF 2:40-3:30, Lemmons 13  
Office Hours: MWF ~~3:40-4:40~~ 10:40-11:50; TTH 2:00-~~4:00~~ 4:40, or by appointment

PSC 280 + PHIL 280  
Fall 2013

This course provides an introduction to political theory. It examines the major issues that all political theorists must grapple with, such as the nature of persons, the formation of political societies, and ethics. The different approaches taken to these subjects by some of the most important theorists in the western world are systematically studied and critiqued.

I expect students to attend class regularly, complete reading assignments on time, and participate in class discussions. These activities are worth 15% of your final grade. If it becomes evident that students are not reading the assignments, I reserve the right to give daily quizzes that will count toward this grade. As well, there will be four tests, each of which is worth 15% of the final grade.

Finally, students get to write a 7-8 page paper providing an overview and critique of a thinker not covered in this class. I encourage you to look at a non-western thinker, but this is not a requirement. Possibilities include Confucius, Maimonides, Nietzsche, Gandhi, Ataturk, and Mao. The paper should engage with printed primary and secondary literature. I will approve paper topics on a first-come-first-served basis. Late papers will be assigned a penalty of 3 points for every 24 hours they are late. The paper due dates and assessment are as follows:

September 13: topic must be approved by this date.

October 2: turn in list of three primary sources, two books, and two academic journal articles you plan to consult for your project (1% of grade).

November 8: turn in a substantial one page outline of your paper. Include a bibliography that cites every work you plan to utilize for the paper (2% of grade)

December 6: turn in final paper (22% of grade)

A final letter grade based upon the percentage of points you earn in this course will be given based on the following scale:

93-100; A, 90-92.99, A-  
87-89.99, B+; 83-86.99, B; 80-82.99, B-  
77-79.99, C+; 73-76.99, C; 70-72.99, C-  
67-69.99, D+; 60-66.99, D  
0-59.99, F

Required book, Ebenstein and Ebenstein, *Great Political Thinkers: Plato to the Present*, 6<sup>th</sup>. I strongly recommend that you read the introductions to each section, but I assign only primary texts. In a few cases the reading is a bit frontloaded, but note that the average assignment c. 15

pages per class period. *But* it is a big book and fine print, so don't put off reading to the last minute. Take time to read it carefully, think about it, and even reread it.

## September

2. Introduction

4. Plato, 30-47, 68-71 (allegory of the cave)

6. Plato, 47-68

9. Plato, 71-74

11. Serve Day

13. Aristotle, 85-105

16. Aristotle, 105-115

18. Cicero, 131-140

20. No class, I am out of town

23. Christian Political Thought: Genesis 1-3, I Samuel 8-12,

25. Matthew 1-5, Romans 13

27. Handout, "Making Sense of Social Justice" from *What is the Mission of the Church?*, chapter

30. No class, work on paper.

## October

2. Catch-up and Review

4. Test #1

7. Salibury, 206-217

9. Aquinas, 230-244

11. Fall Break

14. Marsilio, 272-280, 45-280

16. Machiavelli, 291-301

18. Protestant Reformation, 308-334

21. Protestant Reformation, 334-43

23. Hobbes, 364-379

25. Locke, 389-407

28. Handout, *Roger Sherman and the Creation of the American Republic*, chapter 2

30. Catch up and review

November

1. Test #2

4. Montesquieu, 413-421

6. Rousseau, 452-472.

8. Finish discussing Rousseau

11. Smith and America, 498-503, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence,

13. America continued, read Constitution, Bill of Rights, *Roger Sherman and the Creation of the American Republic*

15. Burke, 513-532

18. Bentham, 543-556

20. Mill, 586-617

22. Catch up and Review

25. Test #3,

27. Marx, 656-679

December

2. Nietzsche, 694-707

4. Fascism, 712-720
6. Spencer, Green, Laski, 768-784
9. Libertarianism, 825-847
11. Rawls, 863-875.
13. Catch-up and review
18. Final exam, 12:45-2:45

Please note: although I reserve the right to change this syllabus, I usually follow it religiously. If I make any changes, I will clearly announce them in class. Otherwise, you should follow it exactly.

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) on the Newberg campus provides all students with free writing consultation, academic coaching, and learning strategies (e.g., techniques to improve reading, note-taking, study, time management). The ARC, located in the basement of the Murdock Learning Resources Center (library), is open from 1:00-10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday. To schedule an appointment, go to the online schedule at [arcschedule.georgefox.edu](https://arcschedule.georgefox.edu), call [503-554-2327](tel:503-554-2327), or email [the\\_arc@georgefox.edu](mailto:the_arc@georgefox.edu).

Visit [arc.georgefox.edu](https://arc.georgefox.edu) for information about ARC Consultants' areas of study, instructions for scheduling an appointment, learning tips, and a list of other tutoring options on campus.

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide current documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, go to [ds.georgefox.edu](https://ds.georgefox.edu) or contact Rick Muthiah, Dean of Learning Support Services ([503-554-2314](tel:503-554-2314) or [rmuthiah@georgefox.edu](mailto:rmuthiah@georgefox.edu)).