

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 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. Unexcused absences will result in deduction from your class participation grade. If there needs to be an excused absence, make sure to send me an email to get confirmation on approval. Emails should be sent at least 12 hours before class starts, with possible exception of sickness.

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

This is simply a way for me to "check the pulse" of the class to make sure everyone is doing the reading. There will be pop quizzes throughout the semester though there will also be six quizzes that will serve as "mini essays". These will essentially be writing prompts of at least two pages

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*, **ISBN:** 9780872201507
- Abraham Lincoln, *The Portable Abraham Lincoln*, **ISBN:** 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 LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

COVID Guidelines and Precautions

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

LSU strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Visit www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/ to learn how to get vaccinated on campus. Vaccination helps keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to

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 Lincoln Mini essay due by 11:59pm-**

Week 13: November 16th & 18th

- 16th: : Nietzsche chapter 5-6 (pgs. 108-146)
- 18th: Nietzsche chapter 7 (pgs. 147-169)

Chosen thinker Essay due Nov. 18th by 11:59pm

Week 14: November 23rd & 25th

- 23rd: Nietzsche Chapter 9 (pg. 74-119)
- 25th: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: Nov. 30th & December 2nd

- 30th: Camus Just assassins (pgs. 235-275)
- 2nd: Camus Just Assassins (pgs. 276-302)

Final: December 9th by 5pm