POLI 2060: Introduction to Political Theory
Mr. Benjamin Mabry
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311 Stubbs Hall
Office Hours: MWF 1:30-3:00

This course is aimed at providing a brief overview of the most important political writers for American political thought. The primary focus will be on reading and interpreting the major texts in order to introduce Political Theory as a field of study. It is primarily a readings course, meaning that the assigned texts are the most important part of the class, and the lectures are supplemental to the original works. By the end of the semester, the goal is that all students will have a general knowledge of what Political Theory entails and grounding for further study in this field.

Course Requirements

1. All Readings assigned for the class are mandatory. Readings provide the basis of the exam questions.
2. 10 Short in-class quizzes: quizzes will not be announced beforehand, and will be on the reading of the day.
3. 2 Exams, one mid-term and one final.

Grading

Participation – 10%
Quizzes – 10%
Mid-term Exam – 40%
Final Exam – 40%

5 bonus assignments will be available on Moodle for a total of 1% of the final grade each. Bonus assignments will have due dates as specified within the assignment. Bonus will not be accepted after the due date.

Because of the availability of bonus credit, I will not round grades. Bonus accounts for half of a letter grade. If one ends up with an 89 at the end of the semester, it will remain a B.

Academic Honesty

All forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. University policy requires that all cases of plagiarism be automatically handed over to the Dean for academic misconduct. There are no exceptions to this rule.
Required Texts

*Machiavelli's The Prince.* Harvey Mansfield, trans.
*Locke's Two Treatises of Government.* Peter Laslett, ed.
*Paine's Common Sense.* On Moodle.
*The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates.* Ralph Ketcham, ed.

Schedule

Monday January 14 – First Day

Wednesday January 16 – The Apology

Friday January 18 – Republic Book 1

Monday January 21 – Martin Luther King Holiday

Wednesday January 23 – Republic Book 2

Friday January 25 – Republic Book 3

Monday January 28 – Republic Book 4

Wednesday January 30 – Republic Book 5

Friday February 1 – Republic Book 6

Monday February 4 – Republic Book 7

Wednesday February 6 – Republic Book 8

Friday February 8 – Republic Book 9

February 11-13 Mardi Gras Holiday, Republic Book 10

Friday February 15 – Ethics Book 1

Monday February 18 – Ethics Book 2

Wednesday February 20 – Ethics Book 3

Friday February 22 – Ethics Book 4

Monday February 25 – Ethics Book 5

Wednesday February 27 – Ethics Book 6
Friday March 1 – Ethics Book 7
Monday March 4 – Ethics Book 8
Wednesday March 6 – Ethics Book 10
Friday March 8 – Midterm Exam
Monday March 11 – The Prince Chapters 1-7
Wednesday March 13 – The Prince Chapters 8-11; 14-18
Friday March 15 – The Prince Chapters 19; 21-26
Monday March 18 – Locke pp. 267-303
Wednesday March 20 – Locke pp. 303-336
Friday March 22 – Locke pp. 336-366
Monday March 25 – Locke pp. 366-398
Wednesday March 27 – Locke pp. 398-428
Friday March 29 until Friday April 5 – Spring Break
Monday April 8 – Common Sense 1-30
Wednesday April 10 – Common Sense 31-51
Friday April 12 – Federalist 1, 6. Convention Debates and John DeWitt (Antifederalist 58-62, 189-198, 357-364)
Wednesday April 17 – Federalist 47, 48, 49. Centennial and Brutus (Antifederalist 228-237, 270-280)
Friday April 19 – Federalist 14, 15, 45. Patrick Henry (Antifederalist 199-216)
Monday April 22 – Convention Debates (Antifederalist 39-41, 49-58, 89-109)
Wednesday April 24 – Federalist 62, 63 (on the Senate), Federalist 52, 57 (on the House). Brutus (Antifederalist 324-335)
Friday April 26 – Convention Debates (Antifederalist 42-49, 114-120, 130-134, 159-160, 165-171)
Monday April 29 – Federalist 67, 68, 69. Cato (Antifederalist 317-324)
Wednesday May 1 – Federalist 78, 81. Convention Debates and Brutus (Antifederalist 125-127, 293-302, 304-309)

Friday May 3 – Federalist 84 (only the section on the Bill of Rights, the beginning until 447). Proposed Amendments, George Mason, Pennsylvania Minority (Antifederalist 173-175, 217-226, 237-256)

May 6 – Final Exam Week