Part I: The Origins of Political Consciousness

Topics:
The Principle of Subjectivity & the Homeless Spirit
Two Species of Political Being
Political Consciousness: The Transition from Tribal to Individuated Politics
Polis, Nation & State
Sophocles: Private and Public Lives
Civil Disobedience

Readings:
Grigsby, Analyzing Politics, Chapters 1 & 3
Sophocles, Antigone from Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle
*Henry David Thoreau, Essay on Civil
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/WALDEN/Essays/civil.html
**“Jihad vs. McWorld,” by Benjamin Barber

Part II: The Metaphysical Foundations of Politics

Topics:
Politics and Knowing: Epistemology
Politics and Being: Ontology
Politics and Justice: Ethics
Democritus – Materialism – Marx
Plato – Idealism – Kant
Aristotle – Potentiality & Happiness
Nietzsche – Chaos and Postmodernism

Readings:
**Democritus: “Introduction” and “The Physical World,” “Character,” Knowledge,”
“Government,” and “Justice,”
http://www.humanistictexts.org/democritus.htm
**Plato, The Republic, “The Allegory of the Cave”
http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/allegory.html
**Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics Book I
http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html
*Nietzsche, The Gay Science, Book III, §125
Part III: The Normative and Empirical Study of Politics

Topics:
- Politics as the Master Science
- Politics as the Search for the Good
- Political Economics
- Mixed Constitutions
- The Scientific Study of Politics

Readings:
- Grigsby, *Analyzing Politics*, Chapter 4 & 2
- **Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book II, III, & V**
  [http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html)
- **Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III**
  [http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html)

**********First Examination – Tentative Date: September 13, 2010**********

Part IV: The Foundations of Political Order

Topics:
- Nomos -- Power & Authority
- Nature vs. Nurture
- Political Culture, Socialization, & Ideology
- Liberalism & Conservatism: Classical & Modern
- The American Political Culture
- Protecting the Nomos

Readings:
- Euripides, *Hecuba*
  **“The Behavior of Genes,” by Gene Robinson, *NY Times*, December 13, 2004**
  **“Keep My Sports the Same,” by Chuck Closterman**
  **“Bowling Alone,” by Robert Putnam**
- Grigsby, *Analyzing Politics*, Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7

Part V: Regimes of Power: Absolutism vs. The Rule of Law

Topics:
- Power: Its Use and Abuse
- Comparative Political Regimes
- Democracy & The Constitutional Republic
- Democratic, Authoritarian, and Totalitarian Systems
- The Discourse of Democratic Politics

Readings:
- Grigsby, *Analyzing Politics*, Chapter 8, 9 & 10
  **“Machiavelli, The Prince (Chapters XII, XIV, XV, XVIII, XXV)**
- **James Madison, *Federalist #10***
- Euripides, *Hecuba* (Revisited)
  **“Politics and the English Language,” by George Orwell**

**********Second Examination – Tentative Date: October 18, 2010**********
Part VI: The International System: Conflict and Cooperation Among Nations

Topics:
- Analyzing the International System
- International Structures of Decision-Making
- Conflict in the Anarchy of Sovereigns – War & Its Causes
- The Just War Doctrine
- War & Democracy

Readings:
- **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – Just War**
  http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war/
- **“War: Realities and Myths,” by Chris Hedges**

Part VII: The Narrative of Freedom and Identity

Topics:
- Identity and Politics
- Freedom and Ambiguity
- The Needs of Strangers
- Pathos and Community

Readings:
- Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus at Colonus* from *Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle*
- **J. S. Mill, On Liberty** (Chapters I, II, & III)
  http://www.bartelby.com/130/1.html
- **Sojourner Truth, Ain’t I a Woman?**
  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sojtruth-woman.html
- *Adrienne Rich, What Does A Woman Need to Know?*

Part VIII: The Citizen and the City

Topics:
- Pericles’ Model of Citizenship
- Socratic Model of Citizenship
- Civic Virtue: Judgement, Skepticism & Ambiguity

Readings:
- **“Pericles’ Funeral Oration,” Thucydides, The History of the Peloponnesian War**
  http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pericles.htm
- **Plato, Apology**
  http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html

***Final Examination: Monday, December 6 from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM in Dodson Auditorium***
COURSE OBJECTIVES: As the title of the course indicates, we are going to examine the fundamental issues of politics. We will begin with the origins of political consciousness and subsequently inquire into questions of power, authority, order and disorder, political cultures and ideologies, justice, war, peace, and civic virtue. Moreover, we shall examine these and other concepts by learning how to construct normative arguments about politics and how to engage in the empirical study of politics. By its very nature, then, this course is an exploration of ideas; essentially it emphasizes a critical understanding of theoretical perspectives on politics.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES: This course is a general education elective; and, as such, it is designed to contribute to your understanding of self and of culture. In this light, the course is intended to acquaint you with some of the classic narratives and philosophies of western civilization, to encourage critical and analytical thinking, as well as a precise and graceful use of language. Toward the latter end you should purchase and use a good dictionary. If you cannot afford to purchase one, you can access the Merriam Webster internet site at no cost. See: http://www.m-w.com/.

As a social science general education elective this course is designed to acquaint you with various view of human nature, as well as how human beings organize themselves into political societies, real and imagined. You will be expected to achieve an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global significance, to develop an understanding of how people relate to each other and to the world around them, ranging from their relations to the physical environment to their relations to the divine; and to demonstrate an ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and use appropriate reference and technology sources in an ethical manner.

READINGS: The reading materials required for the course consist of three books and a series of readings that are available on the Internet or Moodle. The books may be purchased at any of the campus bookstores, including the LSU Bookstore; they are: Ellen Grigsby, Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science, 4th edition; Euripides, Hecuba; and Sophocles, Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle. The Internet readings are identified with their Web Site addresses, given in the syllabus and indicated by a double asterisk. If at any time these addresses do not work, please let me know. You are also required to read essays from a variety of newspapers and magazines. I will assign these throughout the semester (they are listed on the syllabus, designated with one asterisk) and they will be posted on Moodle in the folder entitled “Assigned Readings.” Finally, you should get in the habit of reading a good newspaper on a regular basis. Many are available on the internet at no cost, including the New York Times, for which you may have to register. A hard copy of the New York Times is also available, free, at various campus locations.

Course assignments & Examinations: There will be three major examinations in the course. The first two of these examinations will be given during the semester, as designated on the syllabus, and will count 25% each. Tentative dates have been given for these exams. The final examination, which is scheduled for Monday, December 6 from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM, will count 30% and will be cumulative in nature, although it will emphasize the last section of the course quite heavily. All examinations are objective in nature and will cover both lecture and reading materials. Absences from examinations are excused only for valid medical reasons or for legitimate extracurricular activities. Make-up examinations are essay and will be given only for excused absences.

In addition, you will be asked to prepare a one page empirical research design project and a one page normative research design project. Each of these will count 10%. You will be given separate instructions for each of these two written exercises. The research design project will be due in class on September 20. The normative design project will be due in class on November 1.

During the course of the semester no fewer than eight unannounced, short quizzes will be given. A maximum of five of these unannounced quizzes will be used for bonus credit; that is, the five points will be added to your total points for the course, after the final curve has been established. No make-ups will be given for quizzes.

Examination #1 = 25%
Examination #2 = 25%
Empirical Research Design Project = 10%
Normative Research Design Project = 10%
Final Exam = 30%
GRADES: All examinations will be curved, but in no instance will an examination curve or the course curve be higher than the following distribution:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = Below 60%

ADDITIONAL NOTES: LSU Policy on Class attendance is clear: “Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lectures notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed.” Indeed, it is virtually impossible to do well in this course without attending class on a regular basis. I do not permit any note-taking service to publish my lectures; nor do I post lecture notes on Moodle. I do post lecture outlines; and they are very useful as you rewrite and study your lecture notes. Tape recorders and/or laptop computers are allowed in class, so long as it is understood that the recordings and notes are for your own personal use and not for public dispensation. Students who use their laptops or smart phones for surfing the web during class will lose these privileges.

MOODLE: You may access Moodle through your Paws Account. Indeed, you should check to see if you are properly registered in the course by accessing your Paws Account. In addition, Moodle will contain the course syllabus, with reading hot links, copies of assigned readings, lecture outlines, examination reviews, and, of course, your examination and assignment grades. It will also be used to administer the periodic quizzes.

FINALLY: classroom etiquette requires that students be attentive and respectful to one another (that means listening when others are making comments or asking questions). If you must arrive late, please do so unobtrusively. Turn your cell phones off when attending class. Leaving class early, except for emergencies, is unacceptable. Similarly, talking during lectures and discussions, reading newspapers, taking catnaps, reading email and/or browsing the web are not acceptable classroom behavior. Excessive absenteeism and/or discourteous behavior will result in dismissal from class.