

Intro to Political Theory (POL2110)

Instructor: Dr. Samuel Galloway
Office: Social Science 1033
Office Hours: Tuesday 2.30 – 4p

Class Location: Social Science 1002
Class Meeting Days: Tuesday, Friday
Class Meeting Times: 12:30-2:10

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1. Course Description:

When a politician invokes the concept of freedom, what do they mean? Or, when an activist lodges claims in the name of justice, to what standard do they appeal? How have “essentially contested concepts” of liberty, equality, justice, right, security shaped our politics, both historically and in the present moment? This course will offer a survey of canonical political theory, from the ancient polis to today’s digitally networked world, in an effort to interrogate the meaning and influence of political concepts, ideas, and values across time in ways that continue to impact how we see, speak of, and engage with our current world. In particular, we will explore topics such as justice, citizenship, law, leadership, society, contracts, property, debt, morality, race, labor, revolution, freedom, resistance, and sovereignty. Organized by historical epoch, we consider how political theory emerged in the past, how it shapes our present, and how it opens possible futures.

2. Course Objectives:

Completion of this course will provide a survey of canonical Western political theory. It will also introduce you to the non-Western ideas and cultures that shaped this tradition. In so doing, it will equip you with a theoretical and conceptual basis for analyzing competing claims to essentially contested concepts. Completion will grant a sustained reflection on the living legacy of political theory in our contemporary world. Finally, skills such as critical reading, analytical writing, and collaborative discussion will be developed, reinforced, and expanded.

3. Required Texts and Editions:

It is not enough to simply buy any old copy of the books below, you must also buy the specified edition. Unsure how to buy it? Copy and paste the ISBN number provided into Google to locate multiple suppliers. You will need the first by Week Three.

1. Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. Second Edition. Trans. Harvey Mansfield. (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1998)
 - ISBN: 0-226-50044-6
2. Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. *The Early Philosophic and Economic Manuscripts of Karl Marx and The Communist Manifesto*, trans. Martin Milligan (Amherst, MA: Prometheus Books, 1988).
 - ISBN: 0-87975-446-X
3. Anderson, William C. and Zoé Samudzi *As Black as Resistance* (Chico and Edinburgh: AK Press, 2018).
 - ISBN-13: 9781849353168
 - <https://www.akpress.org/as-black-as-resistance.html> (If you'd like to support AK Press more directly, you can buy your copy from them.)

All other required texts are available on Perusall, accessible on the course Moodle page.

4. Grading (see below for details):

You cannot pass this class without submitting the assigned papers and Perusall annotations

Attendance & Class Participation: 25%	First Paper: 10%
Perusall Annotation & Book Responses: 25%	Second Paper: 15%
	Final Paper: 25%

5. Attendance and Class Participation:

This class will be a discussion-driven exploration of our topics of study. Your attendance and participation is essential to the success of this experiment in learning. Attendance means being present in class, having read the assigned course materials that you also have with you to reference. Participation means verbal contributions to class discussion that refers us to a passage in the text, a concept or idea that is under discussion, and/or a question regarding the aforementioned. You are expected to participate every class.

Absences

I know 18 - 22 year olds are not the most health conscious cohort - at least I wasn't at your age. However, now is the time to err on the side of caution. If you have a cough, runny nose, sore throat, just a tickle in your throat, "allergies," or just feel "off," then **STAY HOME and GET TESTED**. You will **NOT** be penalized for prioritizing the health and wellness of your peers. **PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK OR HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID; ONLY RETURN ONCE YOU HAVE A NEGATIVE TEST.**

6. Perusall Annotations and Book Responses:

Reading the assigned course materials is essential to a successful course. To this end, you are required to do the readings on Perusall, where you are expected to make at least four (4) *substantive annotations* per reading. **Perusall annotations a due on the night before class, by 11:59pm.**

A substantive annotation can take many forms:

1) Asks a deep question, i.e., "When X says 'y,' do they they mean 'x' or 'z'. If 'x,' then I think that 'a,b,c' follows. If 'z,' then I think that 'd,e,f' follows."

Not: "What does this mean?"

2) Makes a deep connection to a previous text or author, i.e., "This reminds me of X, where they argue 'a,b,c,' only here the claim is 'x,y,z.' I think this formulation is better because '1,2,3.'"

Not: "This reminds me of 'x'."

3) Poses a hypothetical reply to a passage informed by previous readings or the text's on premises, i.e., "When X claims 'a,b,c,' they do so on the basis of positing '1,' but if we instead take '2' to be our beginning premise, then we see that 'd,e,f' follows, which better explains the phenomenon X theorizes."

Not: "But what about 'x'?"

4) Extends the argument, i.e., "When X argues 'a,b,c,' they do so by addressing phenomenon no. 1. If we apply this argument to phenomenon no. 2, then we can see how 'a,b,c' provides a way of understanding 'x,y,z' about it that otherwise we would not notice or appreciate."

Not: "This is old and dated and doesn't apply to our world anymore."

5) Puts a complex and possibly unclear portion of the argument in more accessible language, i.e., "When X says, 'a,b,c,' they are saying 'a1,b1,c1.'"

Not: "'a' means 'a'."

For the books assigned, you are required to **post a response to the assigned reading for each class on the Moodle discussion board by 8pm the night before class.** These responses should take the form of the annotations detailed above and include the page numbers of the passages engaged. There are 13 classes where we will read from books; Discussion Board responses are required for 11. Those who post response to all 13 can choose which 11 will count toward their grade.

7 (a). First Paper—Critical Reconstruction of an Argument:

The first written assignment will be 750 – 1000 words in length (approximately 3-4 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, **margins justified** pages). Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay is to reconstruct an argument encountered in the readings and to conclude with a critical evaluation of the argument thus reconstructed. The format of this essay is 75% reconstruction, 25% critical evaluation. To explain the argument here means to reconstruct the argument by clearly stating in your own words its explicit and implicit premises and conclusions. To evaluate the argument means to assess the validity of its premises as well as whether the conclusions follow from its premises. Specific paper prompts will be released in advance.

7 (b). Second Paper: Critical Reconstruction of an Argument

The second written assignment will be 1000 – 1500 words in length (approximately 4 – 6 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, **margins justified** pages). Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay shares with the first in being to reconstruct an argument encountered in the readings on ideology and to conclude with a critical evaluation of the argument thus reconstructed. However, you are also expected to incorporate any feedback given in the first paper. The format of this essay is 75% reconstruction, 25% critical evaluation. To explain the argument here means to reconstruct the argument by clearly stating in your own words its explicit and implicit premises and conclusions. To evaluate the argument means to assess the validity of its premises as well as whether the conclusions follow from its premises. Specific paper prompts will be released in advance.

7 (c). Final Paper: Critical Construction of an Original Argument

The objective of the final paper assignment is to provide you with the opportunity to construct an original argument using the materials from this course. The final written assignment will 1750 – 2250 words in length (approximately 7 – 9 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and **margins justified** pages). Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay is to critically construct an original argument informed by engagement with readings in the class. Specific paper prompts will be released in advance.

8. Academic Integrity:

Simply: *do not* plagiarize. If there are any questions whatsoever about the proper way to cite a source, please consult me or the resources provided by the Learning Center. Plagiarism will lead to automatic failure of the course and will be referred to the College administration for additional sanction.

Learning Center Resources:

Political Science Tutor: Sophia Dimopoulos.

You can sign-up for tutoring through the course Moodle page.

<https://www.purchase.edu/offices/learning-center/handouts-and-links/>

9. Unwavering Expectations for Respectful Discourse and Conduct:

Under no circumstances will disrespectful discourse or conduct be welcome in our classroom. We will treat one another with respect, patience, and understanding. Learning inherently involves the risk of allowing knowledge to change your life, and this requires courage. We will all exercise an unwavering commitment to encouraging one another in this process.

Mask Policy

Not all masks are created equal.

TIME IT TAKES TO TRANSMIT AN INFECTIOUS DOSE OF COVID-19

PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING

	NOTHING	CLOTH MASK	SURGICAL MASK	N95 MASK
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING NOTHING	15 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	2.5 hours
CLOTH MASK	20 minutes	27 minutes	40 minutes	3.3 hours
SURGICAL MASK	30 minutes	40 minutes	1 hour	5 hours
N95 MASK	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

The best line of defense we have against transmission is proper masking.

To this end, I will ask that the freely-provided N-95 masks be properly worn at all times, fully covering nose and mouth, all semester.

Please consult this video for how to properly wear an N-95 mask:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNkdHbYu6Mw>

There will be no food or drinks allowed in class.

You may, of course, step out of the classroom as necessary.

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10. Accessibility Statement:

The Office of Disability Resources collaborates directly with students who identify documented disabilities to create accommodation plans, including testing accommodations, in order for students to access course content and validly demonstrate learning. For those students who may require accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources as soon as possible, 914-251-6035, ODR@purchase.edu (Student Services Building, #316A), www.purchase.edu/odr.

11. Schedule:

Political Theories Past

Week One: Introductions

Fri Jan 20 2023 – Thinking Theoretically About Politics.

Week Two: What is Justice?

Tue Jan 24 2023 - Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, “The Melian Dialogue,” Book 5, 84 - 116 (pp. 350 - 357: 7 pages)

Fri Jan 27 2023 - Plato’s *Crito* (pp. 67 - 78: 10 pages)

Week Three: Citizenship

Tue Jan 31 2023 - Aristotle’s *Politics*, Book VI, 2 – 3, Book I, 12 (pages)

Fri Feb 03 2023 – Aristophanes, *Ecclesiazusae* (all).

Week Four: Foundations

Tue Feb 07 2023 – Machiavelli’s *Prince*: Dedicatory Letter, Ch. I – IV (20 pages)

Fri Feb 10 2023 – Machiavelli’s *Prince* -, Ch. V – IX, XIII (pp. 20 – 42, 54 - 57: 25 pages).

Week Five: Political Leadership

Tue Feb 14 2023 - Machiavelli’s *Prince* - Ch. XV - XIX (pp. 61 – 82: 21 pages)

Fri Feb 17 2023 – Machiavelli’s *Prince* - Ch. XXI - XVI (pp. 83 - 106: 26 pages)

Political Theories Present

Week Six: States of Nature and Social Contracts

Tue Feb 21 2023 - Hobbes *Leviathan*: Book One, Ch. 13 - 14 (pp. 74 - 88: 14 pages).

First Short Paper Due

Fri Feb 24 2023 - Hobbes *Leviathan* - Part One, Ch. 16, Part 2, Ch. 17 - 18 (pp. 101 - 118: 17 pages).

Week Seven: States of Nature and Social Contracts, Continued

Tue Feb 28 2023 - Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, Ch. 4 and 5 (pp. 283 – 302: 19 pages).

Fri Mar 03 2023 - Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, Ch. 7 - 9 (pp. 323 – 353: 30 pages).

Week Eight: Moralities of Debt and Subjugation

Tue Mar 07 2023 – Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, “Second Essay: ‘Guilt,’ ‘Bad Conscience,’ and the Like,” Sect. 1 - 12 (pp. 57 -79: 22 pages)

Fri Mar 10 2023 – Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, “Second Essay: ‘Guilt,’ ‘Bad Conscience,’ and the Like,” Sect. 13 - 24 (79 - 96: 17 pages).

Week Nine: Economics of Debt and Subjugation

Tue Mar 14 2023 – DuBois, *On the Souls of Black Folk*, Ch. 7 - 8 (pp. 103 - 132: 31 pages).

Fri Mar 17 2023 – DuBois, *On the Souls of Black Folk* Ch. 1, 9, 13 (pp. 37 - 44, 133 - 147, 172 - 184: 33 pages).

Week Ten: Spring Break – NO CLASS

Political Theories Future

Week Eleven: Revolutionary Organizing, Emancipatory Critique

Tue Mar 28 2023 – Marx & Engels, “The Manifesto of the Communist Party,” pp. 203 - 243 (40 pages), however I want you to really focus on pp. 208 – 231, 242 - 243 (25 pages).

Fri Mar 31 2023 – Marx, *Early Philosophical Manuscripts*, “Alienated Labor” & “Power of Money in Bourgeois Society” (pp. 69 - 84, 135 - 140: 20 pages).

Week Twelve: NO CLASS.

Week Thirteen: Black Anarchism and Abolition

Tue Apr 11 2023 – Anderson & Samudzi, *As Black as Resistance*, Ch. 1 (pp. 1 – 19: 19 pages).

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Fri Apr 14 2023 – Anderson & Samudzi, *As Black as Resistance*, Ch. 2 (pp. 21 - 50: 29 pages).

Week Fourteen: Black Anarchism and Abolition

Tue Apr 18 2023 – Anderson & Samudzi, *As Black as Resistance* Ch. 3 (pp. 51 - 96: 45 pages).

Fri Apr 21 2023 – Anderson & Samudzi, *As Black as Resistance*, Ch. 4 (pp. 99 – 116: 15 pages).

Week Fifteen: Indigenous Resistance

Tue Apr 25 2023 – Jonathan Goldberg-Hiller, Noenoe K. Silva. “Sharks and Pigs: Animating Hawaiian Sovereignty against the Anthropological Machine.” *South Atlantic Quarterly* 1 April 2011; 110 (2): 429–446. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1215/00382876-1162525>

Fri Apr 28 2023 – Glen Coulthard, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. “Grounded Normativity / Place-Based Solidarity” *American Quarterly*, Volume 68, Number 2, June 2016, pp. 249-255.

Week Sixteen:

Final Papers Due: Friday, May 5, 2023