

POLS Y105-Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2010-Elliot Bartky

Office: CM 213

Office hours T, Th: 1:30-2:45 & by appointment

email bartky@ipfw.edu

Course Description

Political philosophy is the oldest and most provocative of the social sciences. Political philosophy is traditional as it examines the history of thought, giving a serious hearing to long-established ideas. Yet political philosophy is also radical since it compels us to question the truth of those ideas. The readings, reflecting the breadth and depth of political life, provide an unparalleled opportunity for students to wrestle with fundamental questions about politics. In order to wrestle with these questions we shall pay close attention both to the structure of the texts and to the substantive arguments of the authors. *This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Area Three: The Individual, Culture, and Society.*

Course Texts

Aquinas,	<i>On Law, Morality, and Politics</i>
Aristotle,	<i>The Politics</i>
Augustine,	<i>Political Writings</i>
Hamilton, Madison, Jay,	<i>Federalist Papers</i>
Locke,	<i>Second Treatise Of Government</i>
Machiavelli,	<i>Selected Political Writings</i>
Plato,	<i>The Republic Of Plato</i>
Bible	

Also available on the course website are outlines and summaries for a number of the earlier readings. These are intended to assist you in beginning to read the texts.

Course Goals

Course Goals: The course is designed to further the students' ability to think about fundamental political issues. Students who seriously engage the texts may be rewarded by being:

- a) perplexed by the profound differences in the way people think, speak, write and act about questions such as What is human nature? What are the standards of good and evil, right and wrong, justice and injustice, legitimate and illegitimate authority? Are these standards; universal or conventional?
- b) encouraged to enter debates about these fundamental political issues;
- c) better prepared to think, speak, write and act in regard to these issues;
- d) better prepared to increase their earning potential;
- e) better prepared to find and maintain a mate;
- f) better prepared to contribute to the well being of society;
- g) better prepared to establish a record appropriate for securing a position in the world to come.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular Attendance is required

Since a large share of each test is based on class lectures you must attend class in order to do well on the tests. If you need to leave class early inform me prior to the beginning of class. *The use of computers is not permitted in this course except under special circumstances requiring prior approval. Cell phones must be turned off or put on a silent mode.*

Reading Assignments

Follow the reading assignments on this syllabus. Read the assigned texts prior to each lecture since your understanding of the lectures and performance on the tests will benefit by your having read the materials prior to attending class. It is especially important that you are able to integrate

the reading material with the course lectures. The Strauss/Cropsey reader provides excellent essays on many of the theorists on our reading list. These essays serve as a recommended supplement to the assigned readings.

Exams

There are three exams. Each exam will count for 25% of the final grade. The exams will consist of essay and other questions that will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of political thought.

Reviews for the exams will be available on the course website.

Paper

One 5 page double spaced paper. The paper will count for 25% of the final grade. The paper topics are available on the course website.

Paper due: 3/2.

The paper must be submitted in hard copy and electronically to my email address bartky@ipfw.edu. Papers are entered in a data bank that cross checks all the papers submitted in order to determine any cases of plagiarism. Use of the internet is permitted, but be aware that copying anything from the internet will be treated the same as if you have copied from another student's paper, essay, journal article, book or any other source. Copying even a phrase or sentence constitutes plagiarism and will be treated as such.

Note on Academic Honesty

Students should familiarize themselves with and abide by the IPFW Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct.

Students who violate the Code through cheating, plagiarism or other misconduct, or who assist others in engaging in prohibited conduct, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Course Reading and Lecture Schedule

The reading schedule is meant to provide a guide assisting you in allocating the time necessary to complete the course.

1. Introduction: What is Political Philosophy?
1/12 No assigned reading

2. Plato:
*Republic outline of [Plato's Republic](#) on course Website
1/14 - Books 1-2
1/19 - Books 3-4
1/21 - Books 5-6
1/26 - Books 7-8
1/28 - Books 9-10

3. Aristotle:
*Politics outline of [Aristotle's Politics](#) on course Website
2/2 - Books 1-2
2/4 - Books 3-4
2/9 - Books 5-6
2/11 - Books 7-8

Exam 1 - 2/16

4. *Hebrew Scriptures
 - 2/18 - Genesis: Ch. 1-19
 - 2/23 - Genesis: Ch. 35
 - 2/25 - Exodus: Ch. 20-24, 32-34; Leviticus: Ch. 18-19
 - 3/2 - Deuteronomy: Ch. 1-4, Ch. 6:18-18; -Ecclesiastes: complete

5. Augustine
 - *City of God
 - 3/4 - Books 1-10; pp. 3-77, NT Romans Ch. 13
 - 3/16 - Books 11-18; pp. 78-139
 - 3/18 - Books 19-22; pp. 140-201

6. Aquinas
 - 3/23 -* Selections from Summa Theologica
 - ST I-II, Q. 90-96
 - 3/25 -*
 - ST II-II, Q. 57-58
 - ST II-II, Q. 40
 - ST II-II, Q. 47 & 50

Exam 2 - 3/30

7. Machiavelli
 - *The Prince
 - 4/1 - Introduction, Ch. 1-11
 - 4/6 - Ch.12-26

 - *The Discourses
 - 4/8 - Selections

8. Locke
 - *Second Treatise
 - 4/13 - Preface, Ch. 1-9
 - 4/15 - Preface, Ch. 1-9
 - 4/20 - Ch.10-19

9. *The Federalist
 - 4/22 - 1, 10, 14, 15
 - 4/27 - 23, 39, 51, 52, 53
 - 4/29 - 62, 63, 68, 70, 71, 78, 85

Exam 3: