PURPOSE

The purpose of the course is to familiarize the student with some of the most widely hailed thinkers in the history of political thought, to teach the practice of close textual analysis, and to raise questions about the ethical bases of politics.

CONTACTS

- My office is at 405 Decio Hall, tel. 631-7570, email gmackie@nd.edu. Office hours are 3:30-5:00 Wednesday and Thursday, or by appointment. Conferences outside class can help you learn more and help me teach better. I encourage you to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns.
- Ben Fairbrother is teaching assistant and leader of two discussion sections. He can be reached at bfairbro@nd.edu

READINGS

Required Textbooks (in bookstore)
- Plato, Trial and Death of Socrates, Hackett
- Machiavelli, Selected Political Writings, Hackett
- Hobbes, Leviathan, Hackett
- Locke, Two Treatises of Government, Cambridge
- Mill, On Liberty and Other Essays, Oxford

Packet of short readings, for purchase in Copy Center, 3rd floor, O’Shaughnessy Hall

ASSESSMENT

There will be five opportunities for assessment.
- Three exams: two in-class closed-book exams in the first half of the course, and a final closed-book exam. The exams will contain identification questions (a phrase from one of the readings is provided, and you respond with the author of the phrase, briefly explain what the phrase means, and provide its context), intended to test whether you are doing the reading; and some choice among several essay questions, intended to check that you are mastering concepts. Identifications will include some material in lecture but not in readings, and in readings but not discussed.
There will be two papers, each due in the second half of the course. Each time I will provide a number of possible essay topics, and you will write a 4-5 page essay on one of them.

The three exams and two papers count for 20% each towards the final grade.

It is impossible to grant any exceptions in a class of this size. Thus,

- I will NOT give make-up exams, except in extraordinary circumstances with full documentation according to ND procedures.
- Papers are due no later than the beginning of class on the due date; no papers will be accepted after the beginning of class; do not miss class to finish writing the paper.
- I will not accept late papers under any circumstances, unless you have notified me of a fully justified cause and received permission from me at least a day before the due date.
- Papers must have complete and proper citations.

**PREPARATION AND ATTENDANCE**

You are expected to be completely prepared for each lecture and discussion, and to participate actively in each discussion session. You are expected to keep current or ahead of the readings as listed in the syllabus. Lack of preparation or nonparticipation results in a grade drop of a minus.

In order to attain the objectives of this course, you must also attend lectures and discussions faithfully. Readings, lectures and discussions are complements, not substitutes. Roll will be kept. If you miss more than six classes without proper university documentation, I will lower your course grade by one point for each additional day you miss; for example, eight unexcused absences would lower a B to a D. Someone missing nine classes (lecture or discussion) would not pass the course.

**HONESTY**

We will abide strictly by the Academic Code of Honor. That means you must not cheat on exams, must not plagiarize on the writing assignments, and must provide proper citations for written work that you submit. Review the Code in DuLac. If you have any questions about what is permitted, consult with me, as ambiguities will be construed against the violator. I do not have a forgiving attitude about academic dishonesty.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

W Aug 27, Introductory
F Aug 29, NO MEETINGS (read ahead)
M Sep 1, The Greek Discovery of Politics; Thucydides, “Pericles’ Funeral Oration,” “Mytilenian Debate”
W Sep 3, Thucydides, “Melian Dialog,” “Civil War in Corcyra”
F Sep 5, Discussion
M Sep 8, Plato, Apology
W Sep 10, Plato, Apology
F Sep 12, Discussion
M Sep 15, Plato, Crito
W Sep 17, M.L. King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
F Sep 19, Discussion
M Sep 22, FIRST EXAM
W Sep 24, Aristotle, Politics, I, VI-XI
F Sep 26, Discussion
M Sep 29, Aquinas, On Kingship, other brief selections
W Oct 1, Machiavelli, The Prince, chs 1-14, selections TBA
M Oct 6, Hobbes, Leviathan, chapters 13, 14, 15
W Oct 8, Hobbes, Leviathan, chapters 17, 18, 19
F Oct 10, Discussion
W Oct 15, SECOND EXAM
F Oct 17, Why Political Theory? The Cambodian Genocide
BREAK
M Oct 27, Locke, Two Treatises of Government, “Second Treatise” (NOT First), chapters 1-4
W Oct 29, Locke’s “Second Treatise,” chapters 5-6
F Oct 31, Discussion
M Nov 3, Locke, chapters 7-8
W Nov 5, Locke, chapters 9-13
F Nov 7, Discussion
M Nov 10, Locke, chapters 15, 18, 19
W Nov 12, Federalist #10
F Nov 14, Discussion
M Nov 17, Mill, On Liberty, chapter 1, chapter 2 (pp. 20-40), FIRST PAPER (ON LOCKE) DUE
W Nov 19, Mill, chapter 2 (pp. 40-61); chapter 3, paragraphs 1-2, 6-9 (pp. 62-64, 67-71)
F Nov 21, Discussion
M Nov 24, Mill, chapter 4; chapter 5, paragraphs 2-3
W Nov 26, Bentham, …Morals and Legislation, chapters 1-5, skip all footnotes except at pp. 17-20
THANKSGIVING
M Dec 1, Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”
W Dec 3, Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”
F Dec 5, Discussion
M Dec 8, Rawls, Political Liberalism, xii-xxx, SECOND PAPER (ON LIBERALISM) DUE
W Dec 10, Review
W, Dec 17, 8 AM - 10 AM, FINAL EXAM, VERIFY

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