

POLS 2000-01, Introduction to Politics

Spring 2021

Clement 128

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Matthew T. Kenney
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of political science and to help them think politically. We will focus on political science in a broad context, drawing on topics and issues from local, national, and international contexts. Students will also be introduced to leading political philosophers from ancient times to the present. Students will use these two strands to develop and refine their own political positions by supporting them with logical reasoning and empirical evidence. Special attention will be given to contemporary challenges (e.g., poverty, inequality, climate change, discrimination, human rights violations, disinformation, etc.) facing polities around the world, and how best to meet them politically.

Course Objectives

Successful completion of this course will require students to:

- identify and summarize the political philosophies of influential thinkers since antiquity;
- distinguish between and explain in detail different political systems and how they evolve;
- participate actively in online class discussions;
- develop and justify their personal political philosophies using normative and empirical arguments.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEXT REQUIREMENT

Students are required to purchase the following textbook for this course:

How to Think Politically: Sages, Scholars, and Statesmen Whose Ideas Have Shaped the World

By Graeme Garrard and James Bernard Murphy

ISBN-13: 978-1472961785

This book is available for purchase in the Austin Peay Bookstore. It is the responsibility of students to purchase it by the first day of the Spring 2021 Semester. Supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor over the course of the semester.

Assessment Procedures

Students will be assessed based on their class participation, three writing assignments, and a final examination. More information will be provided about these assignments during the course of the semester. Please note that attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Each unexcused absence will result in a 50-point penalty.

Grading Procedure

The assignments for this course account for a total of 1000 points, which are distributed as follows:

- Class Discussions: 150 points
- Bi-weekly Quizzes: 700 points
- Final Examination: 150 points

The following scale is used in assigning letter grades in this course:

A = 900-1000 points	D = 600-699 points
B = 800-899 points	F = 0-599 points
C = 700-799 points	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

January 19 & 21

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Introduction and Chapter 1.

January 26 & 28

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 2-4.
First Quiz due on January 30.

February 2 & 4

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 5-6.

February 9 & 11

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapter 7.
Second Quiz due on February 13.

February 16 & 18

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 8-9.

February 23 & 25

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 10-11.
Third Quiz due on February 27.

March 2 & 4

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 12-14.

March 9 & 11

Fourth Quiz due on March 10.

March 16 & 18

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 15-17.

March 23 & 25

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 18-19.
Fifth Quiz due on March 27.

March 30 & April 1

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 20-21.

April 6 & 8

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 23-25.
Sixth Quiz due on April 10.

April 13 & 15

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapters 26-27.

April 20 & 21

Reading and class discussion: *How to Think Politically*, Chapter 28.
Seventh Quiz due on April 24.

May 3, 2021

Final Examination due by 10:00 p.m.

LIBRARY

The APSU Felix G. Woodward website is located at <http://library.apsu.edu/>.

DISABILITY POLICY

Any student who has a disability that may affect his or her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with me to discuss this matter, or you may contact Disability Services: telephone 931.221.6230 (voice) or 931.221.6278 (tty only).

SYLLABUS CHANGES

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus.

Austin Peay State University Syllabus Supplement

As of January 6, 2021

COVID-19 STATEMENT & GUIDELINES

Austin Peay State University is concerned for the health and well-being of the entire community. The nature of COVID-19 is such that each of our individual actions affects not only our personal well-being but also those of every other person with whom we interact or share a space. Given the possibility of changes to CDC guidelines or those of local or state officials, students and faculty alike will need to be adaptable and flexible as events may occur that necessitate a change in the course schedule or mode of delivery. To minimize the disruption that might occur if a student falls ill or is unable to attend classes for some other legitimate reason, class materials must be made available electronically to students unless the nature of the coursework makes this impossible.

To enhance the health and safety of the APSU community, it is expected that every member of this course acknowledges the following university guidelines:

Masks and face coverings:

All students are expected to wear masks or face coverings and maintain physical distancing in all university buildings. Both are necessary classroom requirements that will help keep our community safe.

1. All students and instructors must arrive to class wearing a mask or face covering over their mouth and nose. If a student does not have a mask or face covering, the student must pick up a disposable mask (available throughout campus – in classrooms and in administrative academic department offices) before joining the class session.
2. If a student habitually arrives to class without wearing a mask or face covering, the student may be advised that they can only attend an online section of the course, if such an option is available, for the remainder of the semester. If the course is not available online, the student will be informed that the in-person course is the only option and they will be given one more opportunity to return to class and wear a mask or face covering. The instructor will file a report with the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs. The student may face sanctions up to and including the student being administratively withdrawn from the course and not receive a refund of tuition or fees.
3. If a student refuses to put on a mask or face covering in a class, after being instructed to do so, the instructor will request that the student *leave the class*. The instructor will file a report with the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs. The student will face sanctions up to and including the student being administratively withdrawn from the course and not receive a refund of tuition or fees. If a student refuses to leave the classroom upon request from an instructor, campus police will be called to escort the student from the classroom. In this case, the student will again be referred to the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs. If this situation occurs, the faculty member may take a break or dismiss the class for that day at their discretion. (Questions regarding Failure to Comply Code of Student Conduct violations should be directed to the Dean of Students, 931-221-7323).
4. If a student has a medical condition that inhibits the student's ability to wear a mask or face covering, the student must contact Disability Services to receive an accommodation (931-221-6230). If a student seeks an exception to the mask requirement, the faculty member and advisor should work with the student to seek an online section of the course. If an online section is not available, or the student does not wish to enroll in the online course, the faculty member will provide instruction to the student remotely, using available lecture capture and other appropriate technology.

Student Absences:

Students unable to attend class due to quarantine as a result of COVID-19 will:

1. Notify their instructor and follow campus guidelines regarding a safe return to campus;
2. Not be penalized for class absences assuming they make up missed assignments in a timely fashion, in consultation with (and at the discretion of) the instructor; and
3. Be provided reasonable accommodations to access all course materials and will be given the opportunity to complete missed assignments online as is practicable.

Student Illness:

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny noses, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea), remain at home, please complete the [COVID-19 reporting form](#), and seek medical assistance or COVID-19 testing if instructed to do so. Students may reach out to Boyd Health Services for guidance. The student should not return to class (or campus activities) until the student has been released by Boyd Health Services. Boyd Health Services will provide guidance during the quarantine/isolation period and a representative from the Office of the Dean of Students will contact the student to provide additional information.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

Discuss your concerns with your faculty member or contact the department chair if you need assistance in resolving an issue. APSU has a variety of policies and procedures for students to file a complaint, appeal, or grievance. Please visit this [webpage](#) for more information.

DISABILITY POLICY

Any student who has a disability that may affect his/her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with their instructor to discuss this matter, or you may contact Disability Services; telephone 221-6230; tty 221-6278; fax 221-7102.

POLICY ON MINORS

Minors accompanying staff, faculty, students, or visitors on campus are not permitted in classrooms. However, affiliated minors may utilize classrooms designated for use by a program approved by the university in which they are a participant.

SERVICE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Consult [Policy 3:007 Animals on Campus](#) for appropriate situations allowing service animals in the classroom.

ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM MISCONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated. Students must read the “Code of Student Conduct” in the new [Student Handbook](#) for an understanding of what will be expected of them within the academic setting. [Policy 3:005](#) will be followed in reporting any suspected cases of academic misconduct:

MIDTERM GRADES

A midterm grade shall be awarded for all students in courses numbered lower than 3000. The grade awarded may not necessarily be based on 50% of the course requirements and may or may not differ from the final grade. Your midterm grade will be posted on AP Self Service.

CAVEAT

Policies and procedures may change due to extenuating circumstances.