

POLS 2000-W1, Introduction to Politics

Fall 2021

Asynchronous Web-Based Section

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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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 Fall 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:

- Virtual Class Discussions: 400 points
- Short Papers: 300 points
- Final Examination: 300 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

Week 1: August 23-28

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

Week 2: August 30 - September 3

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 2 & 3.

Week 3: September 6-11

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 4 & 5.

Week 4: September 13-18

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapter 6.

First Short Paper due on September 16.

Week 5: September 20-25

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 7 & 8.

Week 6: September 27 – October 2

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapter 9 & 10.

Week 7: October 4-9

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 11 & 12.

Week 8: October 11-16

Second Short Paper due on October 16.

Week 9: October 18-23

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 13 & 14.

Week 10: October 25-30

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 15 & 17.

Week 11: November 1-6

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 18 & 19.

Week 12: November 8-13

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapter 20.

Week 13: November 15-20

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapters 21 & 26.

Week 14: November 22-27

Third Short Paper due on November 27.

Week 14: November 28-30

Reading and class discussion: *HTP*, Chapter 27.

December 6, 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.

COVID-19 SYLLABUS SUPPLEMENT – Updated August 10, 2021

In accordance with CDC guidelines for higher education, as of August 11, 2021, regardless of vaccination status, masks are required in any of the university's indoor facilities except for private offices, individual study/practice rooms, and residence hall rooms. Social distancing is not required. Vaccination is strongly encouraged and readily available, including at APSU's Boyd Health Services. Contact them at 931- 221-7107.

If any student tests positive for COVID-19, or if an unvaccinated student is exposed to someone who has tested positive, that student *must* submit the COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form. Any student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should seek a test, must fill out the COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form, and should not attend in-person classes while symptomatic. Visit the APSU Coronavirus Dashboard webpage for more information.

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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.