

POLS 1700
Foundations of Political Theory
Fall 2021
MWF 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Professor Chris Duncan. Ph.D.

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the conceptual and analytic language and debates within the subfield of political theory. It is organized around ideas and questions that are both central and contested within politics and political life. Those questions include things like what is the proper definition of political liberty? What do we really mean by the idea of human equality? What constitutes a just political order? What is a state and to what extent can a state claim to be sovereign? What are rights and where do they come from? What is political ideology and how is it related to political theory? What does it mean to be a democracy and what are other alternatives for political organization? How do we deal with issues of difference and diversity with a political order? What makes the use of force or violence acceptable or unacceptable? Why should we obey the government and, if ever, are we allowed to disobey? What do we do when the political values that we take for granted are in conflict with each other?

concerning definitions and understandings of key ideas from multiple perspectives.

3. Students will understand how interconnected political values and beliefs are organized into particular worldviews called ideologies and how those systems of thought have developed over time.

4. Students will be able to see how specific kinds of public policy and laws are connected to and emerge from certain ideological positions and theoretical presuppositions.
5. Students should begin by the end of the course to develop their own independent rationales for their own political and theoretical commitments and ideals.

Course Attributes

Social Science Req. (A & S)

Required Texts*

1. *Three Theban Plays* by Sophocles (or any version of *Antigone*)
2. *Introduction to Political Theory* (3rd Edition) by John Hoffman & Paul Graham

*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(10) Quizzes	100 points (10 points each)
(1) Mid-term Examination	150 points
(1) Final Examination	<u>150 points</u>
	400 points total

Grade Scale in Points

400-368=	A
367-360=	A-
359-348=	B+
347-328=	B
327-320=	B-
319-312=	C+
311-288=	C
387-280=	C-
279-220=	D
Below 220=	F

Examinations and Quizzes

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following: specific times and will be multiple choice/true and false.

The midterm exam and the final will be comprised of both timed online components (multiple choice/tue-false) and integrative essay and short answer questions. The instructor will provide a grading rubric prior to be used prior to the first exam.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

September 6	No Class (Labor Day)
October 1	No Class (APSA Meeting)
October 15	No Class
October 29	No Class (Fall Break)
November 24/26	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Course Outline

Dates	Topic	Readings
August 25/30	Tragedy & The Birth of Political Philosophy	<i>Antigone</i> (all)
Quiz #1: September 1		
September -18	Introduction to Political Theory & The Question of Power	Text pps. 111
September 10/15	The State and Sovereignty	Chapter 1
Quiz # 2 September 17		
September 17-22	Freedom and Political Liberty	Chapter 2
Quiz #3: September 24		
September 24/29	Equality and Politics	Chapter 3

Quiz # 4: October 4

October 4 8 Justice and Fairness Chapter 4

Quiz #5: October 11

Midterm Examination Posted Monday, October 1st
Midterm Examination Due, Monday, October 18th by 5 p.m.

October 11 18 Democracy: Theory and Praxis Chapter 5

Quiz #6: October 20

October 20 25 Theory and Citizenship Chapter 6

October 27 Nov. 3 Liberalism and Conservatism Chaps. 8 9

November 5-10 Socialism and Anarchism Chaps. 10 11

Quiz # 7: November 12

November 12 17 Nationalism and Fascism Chaps. 12 13

Quiz # 8: November 19

November 19 29 Feminism Chap. 14

Quiz # 9: December 1

December 1 6 Human Rights Chap. 18

December 8 10 Violence Chap. 20

Quiz #10: December 10

Final Exam Posted Friday, December 1st
Final Exam Due Wednesday, December 15th before 5p.m.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of UConn is to provide a high quality education that prepares students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-course/policy_academicintegrity_6-26-2015.pdf

Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish

Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class. This expectation will apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect the following will apply:

- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks prior to entry. Students who remove masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.
- Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.
- Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University-wide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules,

must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.

3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with the instructor to complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on the situation.
4. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a class for an extended period of time.
5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, are excused.

Discrimination Policy:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (Du Bourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through UNW's [Lighthouse Services](https://www.lighthouse-services.com/StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.aspx) at 3-877-525-5669 or online at <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.aspx>. Please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

The University's Title IX Policy was significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns.