

POLS 3202: History of Political Theory II
The State and the People

POLS 3202, History of Political Theory II
Spring 2021
Political Science
Instructor: Dr. Chris Barker
Course time: Sunday and Wednesday 8:30am-9:45am Course location: online-only until further notice
Instructor email: chris.barker@aucegypt.edu
Office hours: Sunday and Wednesday 11:45am-12:15pm or by appointment Office location: Online-only until further notice (Zoom)
<p>Communication Procedures:</p> <p>The instructor will respond to emails about course administration and course readings within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. Student are required to use their official AUC email for communication. Blackboard announcements will be used throughout this course; these announcements will be sent to your AUC email. You are able to send the instructor an email directly through Blackboard via the link titled "Send Email" that is located on the left hand navigation panel of the course site. Please identify yourself and the course number, POLS 3202, about which you're writing.</p> <p>Course Catalog Description:</p> <p>Analysis of the thought of the major contributors, from Plato to the present. Fall semester (301): ancient and medieval political philosophy and the modern break with traditions. Spring semester (302): main currents of modern thought.</p> <p>Spring 2021 Course Overview:</p> <p>What is the state, and how did "we the people" come to be the legitimate source of power within modern states? This question is increasingly relevant in light of popular anti-government protests in an era of "I Can't Breathe/George Floyd," and at a time when governments feel compelled to make new inroads on individuals liberties in a time of pandemic.</p> <p>The first part of this course analyzes the modern state in terms of its sovereign authority, and other key concepts such as the separation of powers (executive, legislative, and judicial) and the rule of law that create a vertical axis connecting citizens and state. The second part of the course examines the main theoretical approaches to the analysis of relations between citizens within the state (and sometimes, across states): capitalism, socialism, communism, liberalism, totalitarianism, imperialism, and feminism.</p> <p>Course Outcomes:</p>

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to

- Identify the unit of analysis of modern political theory (state, empire) and regime-types (democracy, authoritarian regime)
- Identify and explain the main approaches to the analysis of modern political history, including the “isms” which develop in the late modern period (e.g., capitalism, socialism, communism, liberalism, feminism).
- Critically analyze major authors in the modern history of political theory
- Engage in persuasive analytical writing, as assessed through substantial, original, argumentative papers on assigned topics in the history of political theory.

Course Objectives:

This course offers a survey of the subfield of political theory. It introduces students to key concepts and theoretical debates, and develops students' ability to think critically and to read analytically in the core texts of the history of political thought.

Course Requirements:

Participation in (Zoom) classroom discussions: 15%, including occasional inverted classroom assignments/group work, and formal debates

Presentations: 1 student presentation = 5%

Literature Response Paper: 5%

Discussion board posts: 15%

Paper 1 Peer Review: 5%

Paper 1: 25%, due March 15, 2021, at 11:59 pm.

Final paper (Take-home exam): 30% due no later than the conclusion of our scheduled exam slot, **Tuesday May 25 8:30-10:30 am**

Prerequisites: RHET 1010, RHET 1020, RHET 1100, RHET 2010, POLS 1001 or POLS 2003

Class Meeting Overview:

Class sessions will consist of either a synchronous Zoom meeting, or a Panopto/Audio PPT lecture, and in some cases both. In most cases, students will also be asked to watch one or two 10-15 minute student presentation prior to class. This requirement is part of the formal class meeting. In cases where students are also asked to do group work, or asynchronous work, the meeting length will be modified accordingly. Thus, the instructor may deliver a synchronous or asynchronous lecture of 30-45 minutes in length, with the understanding that students will also watch a student presentation (10-15 minutes), and participate in a discussion/on a discussion board/Google doc/survey, etc.

Provost's Message about Online Classes:

The decision to begin the spring 2021 semester with a fully online schedule of courses was based upon a careful and rigorous evaluation of current health conditions in Egypt

related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that we will be able to return as soon as possible to the schedule announced in early December 2020.

Literature Response Paper:

The aim of these papers is to practice the type of analytical writing required by midterm and final course papers. Students will write one short (1-2 page) analytical paper on ONE of the week's required readings. Students will state in one sentence the topic of the reading, explain in one or two sentences the methodological approach of the author, and then summarize the main point(s) in one paragraph. In this analysis and comparison, students are welcome to introduce their own opinions and normative challenges, subject to the usual rules of persuasive writing. Students' writing assignments should include parenthetical references to the week's reading, in the format laid out in the course Style Guide posted online. E.g., (author date, page#).

Presentations (Seminar Leadership):

Students will be required to make at least one audio-visual presentations during the semester. The presentation readings (indicated in the syllabus below) will be posted on Blackboard under "Presentation Readings." Students will sign up for presentations on Wednesday of Week I. Presentations are typically multimedia and take no less than ten minutes and absolutely no more than fifteen minutes. (Please respect your classmates' time! I will stop watching any video at the 15-minute mark.) The default position will be that student presentations will be pre-recorded and sent to the TA by 10pm for uploading on the night before the presentation is "presented." Thus, if a student signs up for a January 31 presentation slot, they must email the TA their presentation by 10pm on January 30. This policy may change depending on students' internet access and the flow of the class.

Discussion Board:

Students will be asked to engage with course materials on assigned questions posted to Blackboard's Discussion Board. Sometimes, an alternative form such as a Padlet post will be used (and explained via BB announcement), but for the sake of simplicity we will rely on Blackboard. Note: Discussion posts should be succinct and analytical. The aim is not to "win" by posting the lengthiest post. A good post will typically be between 50-150 words.

Online Engagement Tools:

This class uses Mentimeter polling software to send poll questions directly to students' phones. These polls are anonymous and allow students to engage with the course's controversial materials in an anonymous, ungraded format. The instructor will often incorporate student poll responses into Panopto/Zoom lectures. Student participation is highly encouraged, and appreciated!

Paper 1 (Midterm Paper):

The midterm paper will be approximately 5-7 double-spaced pages (1500-2000 words) in length. Each paper will address one assigned question that will allow students to use their “toolbox” of concepts and theoretical approaches to address an important theme in the history of political thought. These are argumentative papers. Students will be called upon to defend a thesis and to support that thesis using textual evidence. Students will pay special attention to our course academic integrity guidelines (see below), and cite their sources in the format required by the course style guide posted to BB under "Course Writing Materials."

Final Paper (Take-Home Exam):

The final exam will be a comprehensive take-home examination due at the end of the exam timeslot scheduled for this class (1500 words maximum). Since this is an exam, absolutely no late exams will be accepted for any reason that is not covered by a prior accommodation discussed in advance with the course instructor. As per AUC policy, no collaboration on exams (or on any other assignment) is permitted.

Peer Review:

For the midterm paper, students will review work of peers via Google Docs. Students will be randomly paired with a partner in order to provide specific advice and recommendations to peers. The aim of this graded activity is to lengthen the iterative writing process, and encourage practices of criticism and constructive back-and-forth.

Class Schedule:

Note: A detailed list of class-by-class readings and responsibilities will be posted to Blackboard during the first week of classes. This schedule and the one below are subject to change as decided by the instructor.

Week 1 (Jan. 31 and Feb. 3): Introduction to the syllabus; What is political theory?;

Overview: Popular government, popular revolution, popular uprising

Week 2 (Feb. 7 and Feb 10): Building the princely state: Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Week 3 (Feb. 14 and Feb 17): Building the princely and republican state: Machiavelli, *The Prince*; *Discourses on Titus Livy*

Week 4 (Feb. 21 and Feb 24): Building the state's legal power: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Week 5 (Feb. 28 and March 3): Liberalizing the state: John Locke, “Second Treatise of Government”

Week 6 (March 7 and March 10): Liberalizing the state and religion: John Locke, “Second Treatise of Government,” “Letter Concerning Toleration”

Week 7 (March 14 and March 17): Launching an empire abroad (The East India Corporation, a new vision sovereignty, and the immiseration of India); **March 15 paper due**

Week 8 (March 21 and March 24): Building capitalism (Adam Smith's *Wealth of*

Nations) and Socialism (JS Mill's *Principles of Political Economy*)

March 25 Drop Course Deadline

Week 9 (March 28 and March 31): Founding the American Republic (The American revolution and Arendt, *On Revolution*, excerpt; *The Federalist Papers*); the Cherokee cases

Week 10 (April 4 and April 7):

No class April 4 (Easter Holiday)

Democratizing America (Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*; WEB Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, excerpt)

Week 11 (April 11 and April 14):

Reforming liberal democracy (Mill's *On Liberty*, Chapter 1);

Free speech and discussion (Mill's *On Liberty*, Chapter 2)

Week 12 (April 18 and April 21):

Revolutionary communism (Marx's *1844 Manuscripts*; *Communist Manifesto*; short excerpt from *Capital*)

Week 13 (April 25 and April 28):

No class April 25 (Palm Sunday Holiday); Liberalism (JS Mill, *On Liberty* Chapter 3-5)

Week 14 (May 2 and May 5):

No class May 2 (Easter Holiday) – May 4 Assembly hour makeup class Feminism (JS Mill, *The Subjection of Women*); Feminism in Egypt (TBD)

Week 15 (May 9 and May 12)

Protesting social injustice (George Floyd/"I Can't Breathe" protests and mass incarceration; No class May 12 (Eid Holiday)

Week 16 (May 16 and May 19)

Totalitarianism (Havel's "Stories and Totalitarianism" and "The Power of the Powerless" and Orwell's *1984*); course conclusion and overview

Classes end May 20

Final exam: Tuesday May 25 8:30-10:30 am

Required textbook:

The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: From Machiavelli to Nietzsche, eds., Andrew Bailey, Samantha Brennan, Will Kymlicka, Jacob T. Levy, Alex Sager, Clark Wolf (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2018).

Required readings will be posted to Blackboard in advance of our class session by the course TA. The textbook also includes helpful introductory essays on each of our major authors, some of which will be posted (copyright permitting)

Texts

Students are responsible for preparing the required readings in advance of each class session.

Online Resources:

The course instructor will post reading guides and/or lectures (audio Powerpoint lectures, and/or video lectures in Panopto format) for the major required readings. These will be available online.

Students who have difficulty with connectivity are asked to make arrangements with the instructor (preferably prior to the class meeting) regarding ways in which they can participate. As a rule, all students will be expected to attend and participate in all online classes.

All students will be required to watch an introductory video, Online Course Guidelines, prior to the first class. Students who continue to be enrolled in the course will abide by all the policies and guidelines found in this syllabus.

Participation:

The course participation grade recognizes contributions to classroom (online) discussion by students. Prepared students who actively contribute to classroom discussion and debate by asking and answering questions will receive higher participation grades. A rough participation grade will be posted to Blackboard prior to the midterm. The *final* participation grade may improve or decrease depending on student performance in the second half of the course.

Attendance:

Attendance may be taken in any given synchronous class. Students with more than six unexcused absences have not completed the course and will receive a failing grade. Students will be informed of this pending status by email after the fourth absence. Written work that is due in class, or tests that are taken in class, cannot be made up or taken at a later date in the case of unexcused absences. Please see the AUC attendance policy (<http://catalog.aucegypt.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=1333>).

Netiquette Guidelines:

Communication is very important in this online course. In order to maintain a positive online environment for our class, all students are expected to:

1. Show respect for the instructors and for other students in the class.
2. Express differences of opinion in a polite and reasonable way.
3. Maintain an environment of constructive criticism when commenting on the work of other students.
4. Stay on topic when involved in group discussions or other collaborative activities.
5. Use sentence case in messages. Use of all uppercase in a message is the equivalent of shouting and is considered offensive.
6. Use good grammar and spelling, and avoid using text messaging shortcuts.

Online Course Components:

This course will meet synchronously via Zoom, and asynchronously using discussion boards, Mentimeter polls, recorded student presentations Panopto lectures, audio-equipped slides, etc. Students who have difficulty with connectivity are asked to make arrangements with the instructor (preferably prior to the class meeting) regarding ways in which they can participate. As a rule, all students will be expected to attend and participate in all online classes.

All students will be required to watch two Panopto lectures, Welcome to POLS 3202, and Online Course Guidelines, prior to the first class. It is understood that students who continue to be enrolled in the course will abide by all the policies and guidelines found therein.

Student Writing:

The Writing Center provides a place where all university students are welcome to receive consultations on their writing from trained writing consultants. These services will occur online in Fall 2020. To reserve an appointment at the writing center, please click [here](#) (you will be prompted to enter AUC email address and password). For more information please [click here](#).

A list of resources to develop proper writing techniques will be posted on Blackboard (e.g., <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/developing-thesis>).

Student Technical Support and Assistance:

Blackboard hotline: 0122.900.5544 or blackboard@aucegypt.edu

Or submit a ticket on <http://itsupport.aucegypt.edu/>

Zoom: support@aucegypt.edu

Office of Disabilities Services:

AUC seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services during the **first few days** of the semester. please contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at extension 3918 or sds@aucegypt.edu (located in the Office of Wellbeing/Dean of Students). More information can be found [here](#).

Grading

94%-100%	A	"A" grades confirm exceptional, extraordinary effort and results
90%-93%	A-	
87%-89%	B+	"B" grades confirm effort exceeding average and high quality

84%-86%	B	work.
80%-83%	B-	
77%-79%	C+	"C" grades confirm average and satisfactory work.
74%-76%	C	
70%-73%	C-	
65%-69%	D+	"D" grades confirm less than satisfactory effort and less than adequate work.
55%-65%	D	
55% and below	F	"F" grades confirm far less than sufficient effort and results or may be given in response to a violation of academic integrity.

Academic integrity Policy:

Academic integrity includes a commitment neither to engage in nor tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Prohibited acts include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question. Cheating during an examination will result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, may also be implemented.

You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to "Turnitin.com," the detection prevention software.

Student Honor Code:

By accepting this syllabus and enrolling in this course, students affirm for all assignments and alternative assessments that the work they submit is their own. Students will not consult unauthorized resources or materials nor collaborate with other individuals unless allowed.

Furthermore, the student agrees to follow [AUC's Code of Academic Ethics](#).

Policies:

Students should familiarize themselves with the policies found here:

- <https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/Policies/AUC%20Acceptable%20Use%20Policy.pdf>
- <https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/Policies/Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf>
- https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/about_Policies/Reformatted%20disability%20policy.pdf

