

POLS 101

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THINKING

SUMMER 2017

Co-requisites or Pre-requisites: No Pre-requisites
Semester Hours: 3

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Course Description:

An introduction to the basic concepts, institutions, and ruling ideas in political thought and action. Through the study of classic political texts, competing concepts like equality and freedom, justice and power, are introduced within the context of conflicting ideologies like liberalism, socialism, and conservatism. The meaning of citizenship in postmodern contemporary liberal democracies are examined and contrasted with competing visions of the good society.

Learning Outcomes:

1. To introduce the student to the principles of politics both ancient and modern
2. To introduce the student to the questions of human ordering, the nature of political things, the nature of man, of the state, and the best (the just) political order.
3. To assist students in understanding the relationship between Christianity and the political order.
4. To ask the political questions: "What is the best life?" and "what is the best regime?" or "what is happiness and how is it attained." To confront the most important question: "What is the right way of life" or "What shall we do and how shall we live?"
5. To create a desire to know more about the modern regime in which we live, the political forces that shaped it and the type of human being it tends to produce.

Required Texts and Materials:

George Grant, *Lament for a Nation*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1989.

Harvey Mansfield, *A Students Guide to Political Philosophy*. Wilmington: ISI Books, 2001.

John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration*.

Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Rousseau, *The First and Second Discourses*.

Course Activities/Requirements:

1. One seven page term paper, footnoted and bibliographed in proper academic form. Subject matter of each student's paper will be assigned shortly after beginning of the semester. Due: April 13
2. 1st Mid-term – date to be determined.
3. 2nd Mid-term –date to be determined.
4. Students will be expected to come to class having read the assigned sections from Locke, Rousseau and Machiavelli in order to gain a general and intelligent acquaintance with the subject matter to be discussed. Attendance is required and will be part of the grade.
5. A final examination on the material covered in class will be given on the assigned date.

Evaluation:

The final grade will be determined by the satisfactory completion of all requirements.

Lab attendance _____	10%
Term paper _____	15%
1 st Mid-term exam _____	15%
2 nd Mid-term exam _____	15%
Reading responses _____	15%
Final exam _____	30%

TWU-Extension Standard Grading System

Letter Grade	% Range	Grade Point	Grade Description
A+	98-100	4.3	Unusually outstanding work; completely error-free work at the highest level attainable
A	94-97	4.0	Outstanding, excellent work
A-	90-93	3.7	Outstanding, excellent work with very minor flaw/s
B+	87-89	3.3	Very good work with few flaws
B	83-86	3.0	Good, competent work
B-	80-82	2.7	Good, competent work with noticeable flaws in one or more areas of content, syntax, formatting, and/or APA usage
C+	75-79	2.3	Adequate, reasonably satisfactory work with significant flaws in one or more areas
C	70-74	2.0	Adequate, reasonably satisfactory work with significant flaws in two or more areas
C-	65-69	1.7	Adequate, reasonably satisfactory work with significant flaws in three or more areas
D+	60-64	1.3	Minimally acceptable work
D	55-59	1.0	Minimally acceptable work
D-	50-54	.7	Minimally acceptable work
F	Below 50	0	Inadequate Work

A WARNING: Class sessions will be demanding and grueling as they will run for four hours. I expect attendance to every class, having completed the assigned reading, and being in all other ways properly prepared to get the most out of our class time together. The subject matter under investigation here is quite challenging, and learning it requires a serious effort from both student and professor. **Students who miss 3 classes with unexcused absences may be asked to withdraw from the course, and will receive a failing grade**