

Part I: The Origins of Political Consciousness

Topics: The Principle of Subjectivity & the Homeless Spirit
Two Species of Political Being
Political Consciousness: The Transition from Tribal to Individuated Politics
Polis, Nation & State
Sophocles: Private and Public Lives
Civil Disobedience

Readings: Sophocles, *Antigone* from *Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle*
**Henry David Thoreau, *Essay on Civil*
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/WALDEN/Essays/civil.html>
**"Jihad vs. McWorld," by Benjamin Barber
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1992/03/jihad-vs-mcworld/3882/>

Part II: The Metaphysical Foundations of Politics

Topics: Politics and Knowing: Epistemology
Politics and Being: Ontology
Politics and Justice: Ethics
Democritus – Materialism – Marx
Plato – Idealism – Kant
Aristotle – Potentiality & Happiness
Nietzsche – Chaos and Postmodernism

Readings: **Democritus: "Introduction" and "The Physical World," "Character," Knowledge,"
"Government," and "Justice,"
<http://www.humanistictexts.org/democritus.htm>
**Plato, *The Republic*, "The Allegory of the Cave"
<http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/allegory.html>
**Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>
*Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, Book III, §125

Part III: The Normative and Empirical Study of Politics

Topics: Politics as the Master Science
Politics as the Search for the Good
Political Economics
Mixed Constitutions
The Scientific Study of Politics

Readings: **Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book II, III, & V
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>
**Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>

*****FIRST EXAMINATION – TENTATIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2011*****

Part IV: The Foundations of Political Order

Topics: Nomos -- Power & Authority
 Nature vs. Nurture
 Political Culture, Socialization, & Ideology
 Liberalism & Conservatism: Classical & Modern
 The American Political Culture
 Protecting the Nomos

Readings: Euripides, *Hecuba*
 *Gene Robinson, *The Behavior of Genes*
 *Chuck Closterman, *Keep My Sports the Same*
 *Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*
 *Michael Gerson, *The Kind of Village It Takes*

Part V: Regimes of Power: Absolutism vs. The Rule of Law

Topics: Power: Its Use and Abuse
 Comparative Political Regimes
 Democracy & The Constitutional Republic
 Democratic, Authoritarian, and Totalitarian Systems
 The Discourse of Democratic Politics

Readings: **Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Chapters XIII, XIV, XV)
 <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>
 *David Brooks, *The Bursting Point*
 **James Madison, *Federalist #10*
 <http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm>
 Euripides, *Hecuba* (Revisited)
 **"Politics and the English Language," by George Orwell
 (<http://www.resort.com/~prime8/Orwell/patee.html>)
 *David Brooks, *In Search of Dignity*

*****SECOND EXAMINATION – TENTATIVE DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2011*****

Part VI: The International System: Conflict and Cooperation Among Nations

Topics: Analyzing the International System
 International Structures of Decision-Making
 Conflict in the Anarchy of Sovereigns – War & Its Causes
 The Just War Doctrine
 War & Democracy

Readings: **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – Just War
 <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war/>
 *Chris Hedges, *War: Realities and Myths*
 *George Will, *Letting Soldiers Do the Thinking*

Part VII: The Narrative of Freedom and Identity

- Topics: Identity and Politics
Freedom and Ambiguity
The Needs of Strangers
Pathos and Community
- Readings: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus at Colonus* from *Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle*
**J. S. Mill, *On Liberty* (Chapters I, II, & III)
<http://www.bartelby.com/130/1.html>
**Sojourner Truth, *Ain't I a Woman?*
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sojtruth-woman.html>
*Adrienne Rich, *What Does A Woman Need to Know?*

Part VIII: The Citizen and the City

- Topics: Pericles' Model of Citizenship
Socratic Model of Citizenship
Civic Virtue: Judgment, Skepticism & Ambiguity
- Readings: **"Pericles' Funeral Oration," Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pericles.htm>
**Plato, *Apology*
<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>

*****FINAL EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 PM IN DODSON AUDITORIUM*****

COURSE OBJECTIVES: As the title of the course indicates, we are going to examine the **fundamental** issues of politics. We will begin with the origins of political consciousness and subsequently inquire into questions of power, authority, order and disorder, political cultures and ideologies, justice, war, peace, and civic virtue. Moreover, we shall examine these and other concepts by learning how to construct normative arguments about politics and how to engage in the empirical study of politics. By its very nature, then, this course is an exploration of ideas; essentially it emphasizes a critical understanding of theoretical perspectives on politics.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES: This course is a general education elective; and, as such, it is designed to contribute to your understanding of self and of culture. In this light, the course is intended to acquaint you with some of the classic narratives and philosophies of western civilization, to encourage critical and analytical thinking, as well as a precise and graceful use of language. Toward the latter end you should purchase and use a good dictionary. If you cannot afford to purchase one, you can access the Merriam Webster internet site at no cost. See: <http://www.m-w.com/>.

As a social science general education elective this course is designed to acquaint you with various view of human nature, as well as how human beings organize themselves into political societies, real and imagined. You will be expected to achieve an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global significance, to develop an understanding of how people relate to each other and to the world around them, ranging from their relations to the physical environment to their relations to the divine; and to demonstrate an ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and use appropriate reference and technology sources in an ethical manner.

READINGS: The reading materials required for the course consist of two books and a series of readings that are available on the Internet or Moodle. The books may be purchased at any of the campus bookstores, including the LSU Bookstore; they are: Euripides, *Hecuba*; and Sophocles, *Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle*. The Internet readings are identified with their Web Site addresses, given in the syllabus and indicated by a double asterisk. **If at any time these links do not work, please let me know.** You are also required to read essays from a variety of newspapers and magazines. Some are listed on the syllabus; others may be added during the course of the semester. They are designated with one asterisk; and they will be posted on Moodle in the folder entitled "Assigned Readings." Finally, you should get in the habit of reading a good newspaper on a regular basis. Many are available on the internet at no cost, including limited access to the *New York Times*, for which you may have to register. A hard copy of the *New York Times* is also available, free, at various campus locations.

Course assignments & Examinations: There will be **three major examinations** in the course. The **first two of these examinations will be given during the semester**, as designated on the syllabus, and will count 40 points each. Tentative dates have been given for these exams. The **final examination, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM**, will count 70 point and will be cumulative in nature, although it will emphasize the last section of the course quite heavily. All examinations are objective in nature and will cover both lecture and reading materials. Absences from examinations are excused only for valid medical reasons or for legitimate extracurricular activities. **Make-up examinations are essay and will be given only for excused absences.**

In addition, you will be asked to write a **one page conflict resolution project**. This project will count 20 points. You will be given separate instructions for this exercise. The conflict resolution assignment will be due on October 12 in class.

Finally, during the course of the semester 14 unannounced quizzes will be given. Ten of these will count a maximum of 3 points each, for a total of 30 points. (Four may be dropped.) The quizzes will be administered on Moodle. **No make-ups will be given for quizzes.**

Examination #1 =	40 points
Examination #2 =	40 points
Conflict Resolution Project =	20 points
Quizzes =	30 points
Final Exam =	70 points
Total =	200 points

GRADES: Grade distribution in the course will be as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%;
F = Below 60%

ADDITIONAL NOTES: LSU Policy on Class attendance is clear: **"Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lectures notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed."** Indeed, it is virtually impossible to do well in this course without attending class on a regular basis. I do not permit any note-taking service to publish my lectures; nor do I post lecture notes on Moodle. I do post lecture outlines; and they are very useful as you rewrite and study your lecture notes. Tape recorders are allowed in class, so long as it is understood that the recordings are for your own personal use and not for public dispensation. **LAPTOP COMPUTERS, TABLETS, AND SMART PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS.**

MOODLE: You may access Moodle through your Paws Account. Indeed, you should check to see if you are properly registered in the course by accessing your Paws Account. In addition, Moodle will contain the course syllabus, with reading hot links, copies of assigned readings, lecture outlines, examination reviews, and, of course, your examination and assignment grades. It will also be used to administer the periodic quizzes.