

**Fall Term 2006**  
**Political Science 120: Introduction to Political Theory**  
**What is Justice?**

POSC 120 A: M/W, 7:30-8:40 a.m., 338 PPHAC  
POSC 120 B: M/W, 8:50-10:00 a.m., 338 PPHAC

**Instructor: Haddad**  
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**Office hours:**  
**M/W, 10:20-11:30 a.m.**  
**T/TH 3:50-4:40 p.m.**  
**and by appointment**

***What is justice?***

“I say that the just is nothing other than the advantage of the stronger.” (337c)

Thus begins Thrasymachus’ attack on Socrates in the opening book of Plato’s *Republic*. However offensive this formulation may strike us, Thrasymachus’ initial definition of justice stands as one of the clearest and least ambiguous in the history of political thinking. How might we define justice otherwise? While we may cherish definitions that appear more benevolent or virtuous, defining justice beyond the most general of ideas is rarely easy. This course pushes beyond the unexamined assumptions we may hold regarding justice by closely examining pivotal works of political theory. The objective of this course is twofold: 1) To introduce students to texts of central significance for the discipline; 2) To challenge students to move beyond the study of texts to their own active efforts to theorize justice.

***Readings***

All books are available for purchase at Moravian College Bookstore.

- a) Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (Penguin Books)
- b) Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, edited by Allan Wood (Yale University Press)  
***Please do not purchase other translations.***
- c) Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince* (University of Chicago Press)
- d) Plato, *The Republic*, translated by Allan Bloom (Basic Books)  
***Please do not purchase other translations.***
- e) Plato, *Apology, Crito, and Phaedo* in *Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett Publishing)

Additional texts will be available on reserve at Reeves Library.

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Monday, August 28	Introduction, discussion of syllabus
Wednesday, August 30	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (17-30b) Instructions for paper #1
<b>Monday, September 4</b>	<b>Labor Day – no classes</b>
Wednesday, September 6	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (30c-end)
Monday, September 11	Plato, <i>Crito</i>
Wednesday, September 13	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book I
Friday, September 15	Paper #1 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.
Monday, September 18	Book II
Wednesday, September 20	Book III
Monday, September 25	Book IV
Wednesday, September 27	Book V
Monday, October 2	Book VI
Wednesday, October 4	Book VII
<b>Sat, October 7 noon - Tues, October 10</b>	<b>Fall Recess</b>
Wednesday, October 11	Book VIII Instructions for midterm
<b>Monday, October 16</b>	<b>Book IX Evening movie viewing: <i>Plato's Republic</i> (1996), 7. p.m.</b>
Wednesday, October 18	Book X
<b>Monday, October 23</b>	<b>Take-home midterm due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.</b>
Wednesday, October 25	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters I-VIII
Monday, October 30	<i>The Prince</i> , Chapters IX-XVIII
Wednesday, November 1	<i>The Prince</i> , Chapters XIX-XXVI and appendix Instructions for paper #2
Monday, November 6	Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , introductory lecture
Wednesday, November 8	<i>Groundwork</i> , Paragraphs 406-422

<b>Monday, November 13</b>	<b>Evening movie viewing: TBA, 7 p.m.</b>
Wednesday, November 15	<i>Groundwork</i> , Paragraphs 423-445
Friday, November 17	Paper #2 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.
Monday, November 20	Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> , Chapters I-III
<b>Tues, Nov 21 Sun, Nov 26</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
<b>Monday, November 27</b>	<b>Evening movie viewing: <i>Witness to the Holocaust – The Trial of Adolf Eichmann (1987)</i>, 7 p.m.</b>
Wednesday, November 29	<i>Eichmann</i> , Chapters IV-VI
Monday, December 4	<i>Eichmann</i> , Chapters VII-X
Wednesday, December 6	<i>Eichmann</i> , Chapters XV, epilogue, and postscript
Monday, December 10	Closing discussion, review for examination, evaluations
<b>Wednesday - Saturday December 13-16, 18-19</b>	<b>Final Examinations</b>

### *Textual Evidence*

Learning how to use textual evidence is one of the top priorities of this course. We cannot work without the text. It is an explicit requirement that you bring your impulsively highlighted and passionately marked up books or articles to every meeting. If you prefer not to write in books, you should take detailed notes on the text, including the page numbers of critical passages. The highest form of participation is to take the voice of the author seriously, to be able to reconstruct and reconsider the argument, and to direct others to critical passages. Unsupported answers will be less valued than those that draw the discussion back into the text.

### *Evaluation*

Activity	Calendar	Requirement	%
Paper 1	9/15, 4 p.m.	Five pages	15
Midterm	10/23, 4 p.m.	Take-home exam	20
Paper 2	11/17, 4 p.m.	Seven pages	20
Final Examination	TBA	TBA	20
Engagement: participation and presentation of the text			25

“Hence there is only one categorical imperative and it is this: Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.”

- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

“His guilt came from his obedience, and obedience is praised as a virtue.”

- Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*

### **Engagement**

**A** - Critical, innovative and careful readings; substantial and consistent notes or written preparations for discussion; frequent and illuminating text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support and promotion of positive discussion dynamics.

**B** - Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparations for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions, engagement of the arguments of others.

**C** - Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparations for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.

**D** - Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparations for discussion; mostly passive presence.

**F** - Persistent vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

- Political theory relies heavily on close readings of texts. Always bring your book or article.
- Analysis, not summary, is the point of our reading. Underline important passages, take notes, ask questions, and come to class prepared to participate in discussions. A good question is an excellent contribution.
- What does the text say? What does it not say? What does it imply? When we read political theories we are looking for arguments, implications, and complications. Do not regard the text as a smooth surface.
- Don't be afraid to change your mind. Discussion is generative when it allows all participants to voice a position, to receive feedback from others, to reconsider, and to possibly revise the initial claim.
- If you're finding it difficult to participate in discussions, please contact me. I am happy to help you strategize. You should know that I consider e-mail exchanges, discussions in office hours, and other forms of engagement when determining final grades.
- All written assignment must be completed in order to pass this course.

### **General Housekeeping**

1) I invite you to visit my office hours. Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. You can also contact me by e-mail at [haddad@moravian.edu](mailto:haddad@moravian.edu).

2) We will discuss all assignments two weeks in advance of a given due date. I am happy to help you with outlines.

3) Expect to work six hours on average outside of class per week. Some weeks the reading load will be lighter, some weeks it will be considerably heavier.

4) Students with a documented learning disability who desire accommodations for this course must first visit the Office of Learning Services (ext. 1510) and follow college procedures on receiving accommodations.

5) I do not accept late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment.

6) Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment in this class. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

7) Do not miss class. Undocumented absences beyond the first will harm your engagement grade at the

rate of 5% per absence.

8) No food in the classroom, please. *And, turn your cell phone off before class.*