

What is time for?

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Comenius 112

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Office Hours: Thursday and Friday 10-12, and by appointment

**Political Science 120: Introduction to Political Thinking (M3)
Time, Action, and Politics**

How do you decide what you will or will not do? One way we often answer this question is to consider how much time we have at our command and how we evaluate the importance of that time. We often explain our choices by saying that we are in a hurry, don't have enough time, or don't have time at all. It's also common in the contemporary United States to speak of stress, burn out, and the need for time off. How do we come to have the time we have or to think of it in a particular way? This course provides an introduction to political theory through the lens of how we experience time, how we speak about it, how we imagine it, and what we want out of it, individually and collectively. Readings will alternate between contemporary arguments about such matters as forced overtime or consumer culture and great works of political theory, including writings by Plato, Machiavelli, Locke, Marx, and Weber. The goal of this course is to set contemporary concerns about labor policies, alienation, community life, ecology, and production into dialogue with thinkers whose arguments about politics are rich with references to the meaning of time and the possibilities of action.

The following texts are available at the Moravian College Bookstore:

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett)

De Graaf (editor), *Take Back Your Time: Fighting Overwork and Time Poverty in America* (Berrett Koehler)

Other required readings will be available on reserve at Reeves Library.

Week 1

Tuesday, August 28
Thursday, August 30

Introduction to this Course
Introduction to Political Theory

Week 2

Tuesday, September 4
Thursday, September 6

Plato, *Apology* (ca. 399 BCE)
Plato, *Apology* and *Crito*

Week 3

Tuesday, September 11
Thursday, September 13

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 1: Juliet Shor, “The (Even More) Overworked American” and
Chapter 2: Barbara Brandt, “An Issue for Everybody”
Take Back Your Time, Chapter 3: William Doherty and Barbara Carlson, “Overscheduled Kids,
Underconnected Families”

Week 4

Tuesday, September 18
Thursday, September 21

Eight Alabama clergymen, “Public Statement to Martin Luther King” (1963)
Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963)
Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet” (1964)

September 22

Paper #1 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 at 4 p.m.

Week 5

Tuesday, September 25
Thursday, September 28

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 9: Paul Loeb, “Time to be a Citizen”
Take Back Your Time, Chapter 8: Jonathan Rowe, “Wasted Work, Wasted Time”

Week 6

Tuesday, October 2
Thursday, October 4

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince* (1513), I-VII
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, VIII-XIX

Week 7

FALL BREAK

Thursday, October 11

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, XX-XXVI and Appendix

Week 8

Tuesday, October 16
Thursday, October 18

Student presentations: Time is for...
Student presentations: Time is for...

Week 9

Tuesday, October 23

Thursday, October 25

Midterm

What's time for? We will vote and decide on POSC 120's TAKE BACK YOUR TIME DAY

Week 10

Tuesday, October 30

Thursday, November 1

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690) (on reserve)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

Week 11

Tuesday, November 6

Thursday, November 8

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 18, Vicki Robin, "Enough—The Time Cost of Stuff"

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 16; Benjamin Hunnicutt, "When We had the Time"

Week 12

Tuesday, November 13

Thursday, November 15

Karl Marx, *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (on reserve)

Class cancelled.

November 16

Paper #2 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 at 4 p.m.

Week 13

Tuesday, November 20

Karl Marx, *The German Ideology* (1845) (on reserve)

THANKSGIVING

Week 14

Tuesday, November 27

Max Weber, *The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1904) (on reserve)

Thursday, November 29

Max Weber, *The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1904)

Week 15

Tuesday, December 4

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 17: Rabbi Arthur Waskow, "Can America Learn from Shabbat?"

Thursday, December 6

Review for final examination and course evaluations

Evaluation

Presentation	as scheduled	5%
Paper #1	September 22	10%
Midterm	October 23	20%
Paper#2	November 16	20%
Final Examination	TBA	20%
Engagement	ongoing	25%

The Basics

Basics

- I set aside time every week to meet with individual students in my office. You do not need an appointment. Please feel free to stop by during my posted times or to make an appointment if you have class during those times. I am happy to help you with any questions you may have.
- We will discuss all assignments two weeks in advance of a given due date. Please feel free to ask questions in class, via e-mail, or during office hours. Don't let a question about an assignment fester.
 - You cannot pass this course without completing all assignments and requirements.
- If you are having difficulties writing, I recommend seeking help at the Writing Center. Make an appointment and request feedback on the clarity of your argument and language.
- I do not accept late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment.
- 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.
 - 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 for receiving accommodations.
- Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment in this class. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm
- Do not miss class. We work as a group. Undocumented absences harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% per absence.

- 10) Support a culture of discussion: no food or ringing phones in the classroom!