

**What is time for?
Spring 2008**

Haddad
haddad@moravian.edu

Comenius 112
610.861.1559

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:45-5:00, Thursday 10:20-12:00, 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, January 15
Thursday, January 17

Introduction to this course
Introduction to the subfield of political theory

Week 2

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Day (no classes held)

Tuesday, January 22
Thursday, January 24

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

Week 3

Tuesday, January 29
Thursday, January 31

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 1: Juliet Shor, “The (Even More) Overworked American” and
Chapter 2: Barbara Brandt, “An Issue for Everybody” **CASSANDRA**
Take Back Your Time, Chapter 9: Paul Loeb, “Time to be a Citizen” **STEVE**

Week 4

Tuesday, February 5
Thursday, February 7

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

Week 5

Monday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 12

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 3: William Doherty and Barbara Carlson, “Overscheduled Kids, Underconnected Families” **JENELLE**

Thursday, February 14

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 8: Jonathan Rowe, “Wasted Work, Wasted Time” **MELISSA**

Week 6

Tuesday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 21

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, VIII-XIX **JOE**

Week 7

Tuesday, February 26

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, XX-XXVI and Appendix **ANTHONY AND SAMANTHA**

Thursday, February 28

Student presentations: Time is for...

Week 8

Tuesday, March 11

Student presentations continued, vote on what to do on TAKE BACK YOUR TIME DAY

Thursday, March 13

TAKE BACK YOUR TIME DAY

Week 9

Tuesday, March 18
Thursday, March 20

Midterm

Time Management Presentation by Angela Lutzi, M.S. Assistant Director of Learning Services

EASTER RECESS

Week 10

Tuesday, March 25
Thursday, March 27

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690) (on reserve) **DIVYA**
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* **TINA AND DAVID**

Week 11

Tuesday, April 1
Thursday, April 3

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* **TOM**
Take Back Your Time, Chapter 16; Benjamin Hunnicutt, “When We had the Time” **MEGAN**

Week 12

Tuesday, April 8
Thursday, April 10

Karl Marx, *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (on reserve) **KEVIN**
Take Back Your Time, Chapter 18, Vicki Robin, “Enough—The Time Cost of Stuff” **JASON**

Monday, April 14

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

Week 13

Tuesday, April 15
Thursday, April 17

Karl Marx, *The German Ideology* (1845) (on reserve) **CHRIS AND ELIZABETH**
Karl Marx, *The German Ideology* **TOM AND ROBBIE**

THANKSGIVING

Week 14

Tuesday, April 22
Thursday, April 24

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

Week 15

Tuesday, April 29
Thursday, May 1

Take Back Your Time, Chapter 17: Rabbi Arthur Waskow, "Can America Learn from Shabbat?"
MYLES
Review for final examination and course evaluations

Evaluation

Presentation	as scheduled	5%
Paper #1	February 8	10%
Midterm	March 18	20%
Paper#2	April 14	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!