

Fall 2008, Political Science 120: Introduction to Political Thinking (M3)

Professor K. Haddad

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

WHAT IS TIME FOR?

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 value 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, and Marx. 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To investigate taken for granted thoughts and attitudes about time
- To see connections between individual experiences and collective arrangements
 - To consider power relationships and consequences beyond the state
 - To contemplate important political questions and arguments
 - To acquire cultural literacy
- To engage canonical texts that have been important point of reference for political thinkers
 - To sharpen oral, aural, and writing skills relating to textual analysis and argumentation
 - To cultivate a vast store of complex questions about politics

TEXTS

Thomas Hylland Eriksen, *Tyranny of the Moment: Fast and Slow Time in the Information Age* (Pluto)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (University of Chicago Press)

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

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

The texts listed above are available at the Moravian College Bookstore. Other required readings will be available on reserve at Reeves Library.

Tuesday, August 26	Introduction to this Course
Thursday, August 28	Introduction to Political Theory Complete the <i>Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory</i> and score your answers. Bring the results to class.
	No Classes – Labor Day Monday, September 1
Tuesday, September 2	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (ca. 399 BCE) Long Tran
Thursday, September 4	Plato, <i>Apology</i> Tracy Lentz
Tuesday, September 9	Plato, <i>Crito</i> Jasmyn Kocsis
Thursday, September 11	<i>Take Back Your Time, Chapter 1</i> : Juliet Shor, “The (Even More) Overworked American” and Chapter 2: Barbara Brandt, “An Issue for Everybody” Zach Sigley and Evan Altemose
Tuesday, September 16	Thomas Hylland Eriksen, <i>Tyranny of the Moment: Fast and Slow Time in the Information Age</i> , Chapter 2: “Information Culture, Information Cult” Jennifer Balliet
Thursday, September 18	<i>Take Back Your Time, Chapter 3</i> : William Doherty and Barbara Carlson, “Overscheduled Kids, Underconnected Families” Jessi Illigash
Friday, September 19	First paper due at 4 p.m. in Comenius 206
Tuesday, September 23	Eight Alabama clergymen, “Public Statement to Martin Luther King” (1963) Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963) Frank LoConte
Thursday, September 25	Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” Justin Hyatt Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet” (1964) Ryan Ulk
Tuesday, September 30	<i>Take Back Your Time, Chapter 9</i> : Paul Loeb, “Time to be a Citizen” Jason Pauloski
Thursday, October 2	<i>Take Back Your Time, Chapter 8</i> : Jonathan Rowe, “Wasted Work, Wasted Time” Joshua Perch

	Fall Recess
Thursday, October 9	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> (1513), I-VII James Chadwick
Tuesday, October 14	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , VIII-XIX Michael Burke
Thursday, October 16	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , XX-XXVI and Appendix Grace Teodosio
Tuesday, October 21	Two-minute student presentations: What is time for? Vote on what to do for National Take Back Your Time Day
Thursday, October 23	Take Back Your Time Day
Tuesday, October 28	Midterm examination in class
Thursday, October 30	Guest lecturer: Angela Lutzi, Counselor in private practice, “Time Management and Generational Differences”
Tuesday, November 4	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> (1690) (on reserve) Stephen Labiak and Jason Lauver
Thursday, November 6	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> Erik Wicklund and Jacob Schweitzer
Tuesday, November 11	<i>Take Back Your Time</i> , Chapter 18, Vicki Robin, “Enough—The Time Cost of Stuff” Michael Russell
Thursday, November 13	<i>Take Back Your Time</i> , Chapter 16; Benjamin Hunnicutt, “When We had the Time” Jason DiPalma
Tuesday, November 18	Karl Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> (1845) (on reserve) Elizabeth Barrera and Christian Zechman
Thursday, November 20	Karl Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> Yisol Yanez and Hazar Bitar
Friday, November 21	Second paper due by 4 p.m., Comenius 206
Tuesday, November 25	<i>Take Back Your Time</i> , Chapter 17: Rabbi Arthur Waskow, “Can America Learn from Shabbat?” Amanda Stevens
	Thanksgiving Recess

Tuesday, December 2	Thomas HyllandEriksen, <i>Tyranny of the Moment: Fast and Slow Time in the Information Age</i> , Chapter 4: “Speed” Maureen Helfers and Paul Richards
Thursday, December 4	Thomas HyllandEriksen, <i>Tyranny of the Moment: Fast and Slow Time in the Information Age</i> , Chapter 6: “Stacking” Shawn Kaspern
Tuesday, December 9	Thomas HyllandEriksen, <i>Tyranny of the Moment: Fast and Slow Time in the Information Age</i> , Chapter 8: “The Pleasures of Slow Time” Carli Timpson and Taylor Sperduto
Friday-Friday, December 12-19	Final Examination TBA

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Requirement	Date	Description	%/total grade
Engagement	*	Participation in class discussions	25%
Presentation	*	Outline and discussion facilitation	10%
Paper #1	9/19	Four-page textual analysis	15%
Midterm	10/28	In-class examination	15%
Paper #2	11/21	Six-page textual analysis	20%
Final Examination	TBA	Comprehensive and cumulative examination	15%

Engagement Rubric

A:Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.

B:Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation 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 preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.

D:Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.

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

What you need to know about taking Political Science 120

1. In light of the high value I place on your engagement in class, I discourage all unnecessary absences. Please contact me regarding documented absences and emergency situations.
2. 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 may also contact me by e-mail, haddad@moravian.edu.
3. Please support a culture of discussion: turn off your phone, do not bring food to class, learn the names of other students, engage others intellectually, and take responsibility for the quality of our collective work.
4. All assignments will be discussed at least two weeks in advance of a given due date. You cannot pass this class without completing all assignments.
5. I do not accept late assignments. Please contact me in case of illness or emergency.
6. Plagiarism will result in failure of the particular assignment. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>
7. Students with a documented learning disability who desire accommodations for this course must first visit the Office of Learning Services (Extension 1510) and follow College procedures on receiving accommodations.