

Political Science 120: Introduction to Political Thinking (M3), Spring 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 10:20 to 11:30 a.m. in Comenius 114

Professor Haddad, Comenius 112, (610) 861-1559

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 3:45 to 5 p.m., and by appointment

Course description

This is an introductory political theory course. We will study well-known political texts with concern for the central arguments advanced by thinkers such as Socrates, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Karl Marx. Our goal is to become careful readers of their writings in order to understand the implications and consequences of political thinking. Political theorists care about thought as both a precursor to and justification of action. Regarding the text as a form of evidence, we will look into past visions of politics in order to have a better understanding of the concepts, terms and arguments circulating today. Our themes will be shamelessly big: sex, war, justice, truth, violence, lies, leadership, the state, living together, and making sense of it all. This is an ultimate questions class and fulfills the LinC M3 requirement.

Course objectives

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

Reading

- Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett)
- Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (Hackett)
- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago)
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (Hackett)
- John Locke, *Letter on Toleration* (Prometheus)
- Karl Marx and Friederich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Norton/Verso)

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

Course requirements and evaluation, for due dates see calendar below

Engagement	25%
Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	20%
Midterm examination	20%
Final examination	20%

PLEASE NOTE: I do not accept late assignments. Please contact me in case of illness or emergency. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in this course. I strongly discourage absences.

Class meetings and assignments

Tuesday, January 20 Introduction

Thursday, January 22 Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Tuesday, January 27 Class meets at Reeves Library for special instruction by Dr. Glew

Thursday, January 29 Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Tuesday, February 3 Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* (1987)

Thursday, February 5 Plato, *Apology*

Monday, February 9 Paper #1 due at 4 p.m. to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206

Tuesday, February 10 Plato, *Apology*

Thursday, February 12 The Trial of Socrates (1982)

Tuesday, February 17 Plato, *Crito*

Thursday, February 19 Plato, *Crito*

Tuesday, February 24 Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, I-VII

Thursday, February 26 Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, VIII-XIX

SPRING RECESS

Tuesday, March 10 Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, XX-XXVI and Appendix

Thursday, March 12 *The Prince* (1996)

Tuesday, March 17	Midterm examination in class
Thursday, March 19	Locke, <i>Letter on Toleration</i> , pages 1-30
Tuesday, March 24	Locke, <i>Letter on Toleration</i> , pages 31-55 John Locke (1994)
Thursday, March 26	Locke, <i>Letter on Toleration</i> , pages 56-78
Tuesday, March 31	Introduction to Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Thursday, April 2	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , pages 1-30
Monday, April 6	Paper #2 due at 4 p.m. to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206
Tuesday, April 7	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , pages 31-60
Thursday, April 9	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , pages 61-71
EASTER RECESS	
Tuesday, April 14	An Age of Revolutions (1996)
Thursday, April 16	Marx and Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , pages 1-29
Tuesday, April 21	Karl Marx (2006)
Thursday, April 23	Marx and Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , pages 33-62
Tuesday, April 28	Marx and Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , pages 62-87
Thursday, April 30	Preparation for final examination

FINAL EXAMINATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

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** 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.