

POSC 110: Introduction to Politics

Fall 2013

Instructor: Holly Jordan

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Class time/Room: TTh 12:30-1:45 p.m., Davis Hall 043

Section Number: 05; CRN: 11438

Office hours: TTh 2:00-3:00 and By Appointment, Russell Hall 233

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the concepts and methods of political by examining enduring questions and concerns of political life using political philosophy and literature. This course has been approved for Core Curriculum credit in Humanities.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will practice thinking critically and creatively about ideas, issues, problems, and texts within political science and in terms of the relation between politics and other aspects of life.
2. Students will examine and think about the relationship between politics and the human condition in the spirit of a liberal education.
3. Students will practice constructing logical and persuasive arguments about the political questions examined through a variety of oral and written assignments.
4. Students will work with others in a shared process of inquiry concerning political life, learning the importance of civility and open-minded dialogue as a model for democratic citizenship.
5. Students will identify the personal and collective political values that shape decisions in public, professional, and private life, and assess the ethical implications of those decisions.

Course Content

The following books will be used in this course: *Inventors of Ideas: An Introduction to Western Political Philosophy*, Third Edition, by Donald G. Tannenbaum, ISBN-13: 978-0-495-90824-1.

In addition to these texts, students will complete readings found on D2L.

Course Structure and Rules of Conduct:

The structure of our classes will change from session to session. Some days will rely more on lecture; others will be student-led. As this is a class happening in real time, a day's scheduled events may change if there is an item in the news worth bringing to the table.

As unstructured as this sounds, I do have a few rules. First, just be the adults you are. I expect everyone to treat both the material and each other with respect. *Tolerance* is expected from each student. At no time will you have to discuss your personal political beliefs, but if you do, assume that you will be treated with courtesy. These guidelines will be in force in any academic setting: class, D2L, etc.

Second, come to class on time. If you are consistently late to class without explanation, you will not be guaranteed "present" on that day's attendance.

Third, use whatever technology you need to do well in this class (computers, iPads, Kindles, etc.), even if that means quickly looking up a word on your phone's dictionary. That being said, use your technology wisely. If something you doing with your tech is distracting to me or someone else, we may need to have a talk. Bring whatever you need to do well.

Finally, check your email. Set D2L up to forward messages to your email or phone if you are not good at checking D2L often. Check your email before class daily to make sure there have not been last-minute handouts or articles sent out.

Grading, Assignments, and Calendar

Grades for this class will be based on a percentage system:

- 20% Attendance and participation** – students will be assessed based on their contributions to whole-class discussions and their participation in small-group conversations
- 30% Quizzes/Learning assessments** – Nearly every week, students will answer a question posted online as a reading quiz/learning assessment. Quizzes will be due prior to class each Tuesday and will cover that week's material (ex: Week Three's quiz will be due Tuesday prior to 12:30 p.m. and will cover Tannenbaum chapter 2 and the *Apology*). There will be 11 quizzes this semester. The lowest quiz will be dropped.
- 50% Final Paper** – Essays will be graded on the basis of content, structure, and attention to spelling and grammar and will be graded in stages:
 - Stage 1 – Thesis statement (written in conjunction with the professor – during office hours) – 5%
 - Stage 2 – Outline of essay (with key quotes and annotated bibliography) – 10%
 - Stage 3 – *Complete* Rough Draft of essay (to be workshopped both with the professor and in class) – 15%
 - Stage 4 – *Final* Draft (due in lieu of a final exam) – 20%
 - Note: Students unfamiliar with a standard citation style are highly recommended to use the Modern Language Association (MLA) style of citation. Please visit Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL) for more information:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
 - Full explanations of due-dates and assignments for the final paper are available on D2L.

Students in this course will be graded on the following scale: A: 100-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59-0

Attendance Policy

Come to class. Come to class prepared. If for some reason, you are not prepared that day, still come to class. You are paying for this degree. Come to class.

I will be taking attendance every day at the beginning of class. You are allowed 2 "freebie" days (play outside, sleep in, get lunch – just don't feel like you need to tell me). Any absence outside of that (except absences excused by the University) will be detrimental to your attendance grade.

Please note that students who are repeatedly late to class risk not being counted in attendance for the day.

Learning Assistance and Resource Center (LARC)

The LARC strives to help all Radford University students achieve academic success in all disciplines. In individual or group tutoring sessions, students acquire support from College Reading and

Learning Association (CRLA) certified trained tutors. Writing assignments are an essential element in a student's educational experience. Because there will be multiple writing assignments for this class, all students are encouraged to use the LARC's tutoring services. LARC is located in 125 Walker Hall.

Academic Integrity

I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty in this class. On all projects, I will make sure students are aware of the expected outcomes and project guidelines. All work will be appraised under the guidelines of Radford University's Honor Pledge: I shall uphold the values and ideals of Radford University by engaging in responsible behavior and striving always to be accountable for my actions while holding myself and others to the highest moral and ethical standards of academic integrity and good citizenship as defined in the Standards of Student Conduct. The Standards of Student Conduct can be found here:

<http://www.radford.edu/content/radfordcore/home/student-life/student-handbook.html>.

Students Requiring Accommodations:

If you are a student with special needs or circumstances, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible during my office hours or see me before or after class so that I may quickly accommodate your needs.

Radford University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all qualified students regardless of type of disability. Through the Disability Resource Office, Radford University provides reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. These accommodations shall not compromise the University's standards. The Disability Resource Office is a resource to the RU community, facilitating the University's goal to remove physical and learning barriers that might infringe upon the individual's opportunity to fully participate in the University experience. Please see the Disability Resources Office for specific information:

<http://www.radford.edu/content/student-affairs/home/dean-of-students/disability-resources.html>.

Tentative Calendar (as of 08/20/2013)

Week One - Introduction

- 08/27 Intro/Syllabus Day/Technology Day
08/29 Technology Day Continued/Framing Day; Tannenbaum, Chapter 1

Week Two - Questioning the Political

- 09/03 Williams - The Clan of the One-Breasted Women (D2L)
Quiz 1 over Williams due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
09/05 The Newsroom - "Amen"

Week Three - Plato and Socrates

- 09/10 Tannenbaum, Chapter 2
Quiz 2 over Tannenbaum, Chapter 2 and The Apology due by 12:30 on Scholar
09/12 Plato - "The Apology" (see D2L)

Week Four - Aristotle

- 09/17 Tannenbaum, Chapter 3
Quiz 3 over Aristotle due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
09/19 Chapter 3 continued

Week Five - Augustine and the Church

- 09/24 Tannenbaum, Chapter 5
Quiz 4 over Chapters 5 and 7 due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
09/26 Tannenbaum, Chapter 7

Week Six - Machiavelli

- 10/01 Tannenbaum, Chapter 8
Quiz 5 over Machiavelli due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
10/03 Selections from *The Prince*

Week Seven - Hobbes and Locke

- 10/08 Tannenbaum, Chapter 9
Quiz 6 over Hobbes and Locke due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
10/10 Tannenbaum, Chapter 10

Week Eight - Wollstonecraft

- 10/15 Enterprise - "Cogenitor"
Quiz 7 over Williams due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
10/17 Tannenbaum, Chapter 12

Week Nine - Katz

- 10/22 Sliders - "The Weaker Sex"
Quiz 8 over Katz due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
10/24 Katz - "The Invention of Heterosexuality" (see D2L)
Note: Thesis Statement due on 10/24 at 11:59 p.m. on D2L

Week Ten - Marx

- 10/29 Tannenbaum, Chapter 15
Quiz 9 over Marx due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
- 10/31 Selections from *The Communist Manifesto* (see D2L)

Week Eleven – Thoreau and King

- 11/05 Thoreau – *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience (Resistance to Civil Government)* (See D2L)
Quiz 10 over Thoreau and King due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
- 11/07 King - *A Time to Break the Silence* and *Where Do We Go From Here* (See D2L)
Note: Outline and Annotated Bibliography due 11/07 at 11:59 p.m. on D2L

Week Twelve – V for Vendetta

- 11/12 V for Vendetta
- 11/14 V for Vendetta Continued

Week Thirteen – Postmodernism

- 11/19 Tannenbaum, Chapter 16
Quiz 11 over Chapter 16 due by 12:30 p.m. on Scholar
- 11/21 Chapter 16, continued
Note: Complete Rough Draft due 11/21 at 11:59 p.m. on D2L

Week FOURTEEN- NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)**Week Fifteen – Final Thoughts**

- 12/03 Paper Workshops
- 12/05 Final Thoughts

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Any changes to this syllabus will be made available to students as soon as possible.