

POLS 1 - Introduction to Political Philosophy

University of California, Santa Barbara

Fall 2018

Contact Information

Instructor: Caleb R. Miller

Email: Miller@polsci.ucsb.edu

Course Time: MW 3:30-4:45pm

Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-3:30pm

Course Location: Embarcadero Hall

Office Location: Ellison 3712

TA Information

Teaching Assistants: Julien Labarre

Khobaib Osailan

Michele Zamora

Office Locations: Ellison 2808

Ellison 2808

Ellison 2812

Office Hours: T 1-3; W 2-3

Thursday 11-2

M 12-1:30; W 9-10:30

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Course Description

How should we think about the state? Should we celebrate it, recognizing it as a source of national unity and a vehicle for our collective greatness? Should we fear it, seeing it as an oppressive institution with the potential to alienate citizens from one another and, perhaps, even themselves? Or should we merely tolerate the state as a necessary evil, not something in which to invest oneself but nevertheless indispensable for going about the business of everyday life? For over 2,500 years, Western philosophers, writers, and social theorists have wrestled with these concerns as they attempted to orient themselves within their respective historical and political contexts. In this course, we'll survey a number of important works within this tradition, including those by Plato, Hobbes, Rousseau, as well as a number of contemporary thinkers, in hopes of addressing the sorts of questions raised above and better elucidating the relationship between state and citizen.

Students should expect heavy reading loads throughout the term, sometimes bordering on 60-70 pages. Students are encouraged to read ahead during the weekends in order to stay on top of the assigned reading. As always, students are also encouraged to read actively, underlining/highlighting the text, writing marginal notes, and keeping a separate set of reading notes. To succeed, students must attend all lectures and sections.

Additionally, students are asked to download the free Socrative Student app for their laptop, tablet, or phone for use in class. This software allows students to easily complete quizzes posed at the start of class and will be used for attendance purposes. If students are unable to use this app, paper copies of the quiz will be made available.

Course Objectives

- Critically read and interpret canonical works in political theory
- Cogently discuss the arguments and ideas related to these works and in relation to one another
- Write tightly argued, coherent, well-supported essays pertaining to the works addressed in the course

Required Texts

- Plato - *Republic* (Cambridge)
- Machiavelli - *The Prince* (University of Chicago Press)
- Hobbes - *Leviathan* (Hackett)
- Rousseau - *The Social Contract* and *The First and Second Discourses* (Yale)
- Weber - *The Vocation Lectures* (Hackett)
- Dewey - *The Public and Its Problems* (Swallow)

All other readings will be made available on Gauchospace.

Assignments and Grading

15%	In-Class Quizzes
20%	Paper 1
25%	Paper 2
30%	Paper 3
10%	Section Participation

In-Class Quizzes: At the beginning of each lecture, students will be given a few minutes to respond to a series of multiple choice questions related to the day's reading using the Socrative app. Students with excused absences may make up missed quizzes within one week during office hours; students with unexcused absences will receive a zero on that day's quiz. Students must be IN-CLASS to take the quiz; students caught taking the quiz outside of class will first receive a zero for the day, then, required to take a paper quiz for the remainder of the term.

Papers: Three-page (maximum), double-spaced papers, 1" margins, addressing concepts relevant to the course. These papers will be used to assess the students' ability to make strong, concise, conceptual arguments through reference to the text. Paper topics will be made available roughly one and a half weeks in advance of due date. Chicago-style citations (as endnotes), title page, and works cited page are required. Papers will be graded according to a rubric found on the course Gauchospace page; students are asked to attach a rubric to each paper they turn in.

Section Participation: Determined by your TA.

Additionally, students are encouraged to meet with a writing lab fellow prior to turning in their first papers. Appointments can be made through the MyCLAS system or at the CLAS office, SRB 3210.

Finally, plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such. If any students are caught plagiarizing, the case will be turned over to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Any student unclear about what may constitute plagiarism can turn to the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity on the Judicial Affairs website.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Introduction
Monday, 10/1	Syllabus; Michael Oakeshott - "The study of 'politics' in a university"
Wednesday, 10/3	Leo Strauss - "What Is Political Philosophy?"
Week 2	The Art of Governing
Monday, 10/8	Plato - <i>Republic</i> , Book II (pp. 37-70, 104-110)
Wednesday, 10/10	Plato - <i>Republic</i> , selections (pp. 111-143, 190-193, 220-227, 291-312, & 334-339)
Week 3	The Art of Governing (continued)
Monday, 10/15	Niccolo Machiavelli - <i>The Prince</i> , Dedicatory Letter, Ch. X, XIV-XIX, XXI, & XXV (pp. 3-4, 42-44, 58-82, 87-91, & 98-101)
Wednesday, 10/17	Max Weber - "Politics as Vocation" (pp. 32-54 and 74-94)
Week 4	Republicanism
Monday, 10/22	Aristotle - <i>Politics</i> , Book III, Ch. 1, 5, & 9; Fustel de Coulanges - <i>The Ancient City</i> (selection); Thucydides - "Pericles's Funeral Oration"

Wednesday, 10/24 Hannah Arendt - "What is Freedom?"
FIRST PAPER DUE

Week 5 Mass Democracy

Monday, 10/29 Jean Jacques Rousseau - *The Social Contract*, Book I, Book II
 (Ch. I-X), Book III (Ch. I-II, XI-XVI), & Book IV (Ch. I, VIII)
 (pp. 151-189, 193-199, 216-224, 227-228, 245-253)

Wednesday, 10/31 John Dewey - *The Public and Its Problems*, Ch. IV-V (pp. 110-184)

Week 6 Liberalism

Monday, 11/5 Benjamin Constant - "The Liberty of the Ancients..."

Wednesday, 11/7 John Rawls - "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical"

Week 7 Marxism

Monday, 11/12 **NO CLASS (Veterans Day)**

Wednesday, 11/14 Karl Marx - *Wage, Labour, and Capital* (selections) & *Economic and
 Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, "Estranged Labor"
SECOND PAPER DUE

Week 8 Marxism (continued); Realism

Monday, 11/19 Karl Marx - *The German Ideology*, "Ideology in General, German
 Ideology in Particular" (part I, sec. A)

Wednesday, 11/21 Thomas Hobbes - *Leviathan*, Introduction, Ch. I-IV & XIII-XVI
 (pp. 3-22 & 74-105)

Week 9 Realism (continued)

Monday, 11/26 Thomas Hobbes - *Leviathan* Ch. XVII-XVIII, XX.1-15, XXI, &
 XXVI.1-21 (pp.106-118, 127-132, 136-145, 172-180)

Wednesday, 11/28 Bernard Williams - "Realism and Moralism in Political Theory"

Week 10 Truth and Politics

Monday, 12/3 Plato - "The Apology of Socrates"

Wednesday, 12/5 Michel Foucault - "The Subject and Power"

Week 11 **Finals Week**Friday, 12/14 **THIRD PAPER DUE (3pm)**Other Services

Campus Learning Assistance Service (CLAS): helps students increase their mastery of course material through course-specific tutoring and academic skills development, including a Writing Lab. Visit their website: www.clas.ucsb.edu. Sign up for services at their website or main office, Student Resource Building, Room 3210, Monday- Friday 9am to 5 pm. 805.893.3269

Counseling & Career Services: offers counseling for personal & career concerns, self-help information and connections to off-campus mental health resources. 805.893.4411

Student Health Social Services: provides a range of services to help students identify and overcome obstacles to academic performance stemming from financial, medical, emotional, social, or family situations. 805.893.3380

Disabled Students Program (DSP): provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities. Please inform the professor if you require special classroom accommodations due to a disability. You must register with DSP prior to receiving these accommodations, and you must re-register each quarter. 805.893.2668