Course Description

This course provides an introduction to political philosophy. Through reading and analyzing a set of canonical texts, we will examine central political ideas and enduring questions. Reading Plato, Aristotle, and Machiavelli, we will consider: Who should rule? Who should participate in political life? What are the necessary qualities of political leaders, of citizens? With Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, we will ask: What is the origin and purpose of government? What makes a government legitimate? Are there limits to what a legitimate government may do? And we will engage with three critiques of the familiar answers to these questions: the conservative critique of Burke, the radical socialist critique of Marx, and the utilitarian alternative of J.S. Mill. Throughout, we will aim to make connections across the centuries of political thought, focusing on the big ideas and questions that are of continuing relevance today.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

• Identify the difference between normative and empirical approaches to the study of politics
• Explain central questions and concepts in political philosophy
• Construct and evaluate philosophical arguments about politics
• Connect foundational ideas of political philosophy to contemporary debates about politics

Course Requirements

There are six course requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Midterm exam 2</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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Attendance and participation

Your participation grade depends on your punctual attendance, the regularity and the quality of your contributions to class discussions, and your reading quiz grades. If you have hesitations about participating in class, meet with me so we can work on it.
You are entitled to miss one day of class without an excuse and without it affecting your grade. You should reserve this day to use when necessary. If you miss any additional classes, for whatever reason, this will negatively affect your grade.

**Reading quizzes**
There will be frequent unannounced short quizzes on the assigned readings. You are permitted to use your books and notes. If you have done the assigned reading, the questions should be easy to answer. You must be in class that day to take the quiz; no make-up quizzes will be granted. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Midterm and final exams**
The midterm exam will be in class on Monday, April 17 and Monday, May 8. Alternate times for the midterm exam will not be granted without a valid reason and advance notice.

The final exam will be Saturday, June 3, at 3pm. The final exam is scheduled by the registrar. No travel-related accommodations will be made. You may request to take the exam at an alternate time only if you need an SAS-related accommodation or have three exams in one day.

**Final paper**
You will write a five page final paper, due Tuesday, June 6 at 12pm. Unless there is a valid excuse, late papers will be penalized a full letter grade for every day late.

The papers must use proper and full citations, following the Chicago Manual of Style. The papers should be in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. The papers should have titles and page numbers.

**Readings**
The required texts are:

It is important that you buy these specific editions of the texts so that you can easily find and cite passages by page number in class discussions. All of these texts are available for purchase at the Dartmouth bookstore and Wheelock Books. There are also used copies available inexpensively.
online. Most of the books are also available as course reserves at the library. All other required readings will be posted on Canvas.

The readings are, by intention, relatively short (on average, 75 pages per week). This is so you can give the readings your careful attention. The texts contain sophisticated philosophical arguments, and some of them are written in an unfamiliar style, so it is expected that you will need to read some of the texts more than once to properly understand the arguments.

You are required to bring the assigned readings with you to class.

Class Format

Class sessions will combine lecture and discussion (sometimes in small groups, sometimes as a whole). I encourage you to interrupt the lectures to ask clarifying or substantive questions. It is important that you come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. I will sometimes call on students who have not volunteered an answer; you are welcome to pass.

Class Policies

Office Hours: I will hold regular office hours on Wednesday, 3:30-5:00. If you cannot meet during those times, email me to make an appointment for another time. During busy times of the term, I will post a sign-up sheet for office hours slots.

Honor Policy: Students are required to abide by the Academic Honor Principle (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are ever in doubt about what the honor code requires, or what citations are required or how much collaborating or paraphrasing is permissible, either ask me or err on the side of caution.

X-Hours: We will use the x-hours, in place of Monday or Friday class, on Thursday, April 13, April 20, May 4, and May 11. I may schedule additional x-hours with advance notice.

Laptops and electronics: Laptops and other electronics are prohibited in class. You will remember more and be more present if you take notes by hand. See: www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom

Grades: The Government Department has a median grade policy, which is: “Except under extraordinary circumstances, median grades in GOV courses will not exceed A- in seminars, and B+ in all other courses.” See more at: https://govt.dartmouth.edu/undergraduate/courses#sthash.T3rZumAB.dpuf. Accordingly, the median grade in this course is not expected to exceed a B+. The Registrar’s grade descriptions correspond to how I will grade your performance in the course; see http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/transcript/grade_descriptions.html.
**Learning disabilities:** Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services are encouraged to see me privately as early as possible in the term. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services office (205 Collis Student Center, 646-9900, Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu). Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to their professor. As a first step, if students have questions about whether they qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, they should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

**Religious observances:** Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Prize:** The Andrew Warden Edson Memorial Prize of $200 may be awarded to one or two students who, in the judgment of the instructor, perform outstandingly well in the course. The prize is a gift from Mrs. Jean Slater Edson in memory of her husband, a Dartmouth graduate in the Class of 1925.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

*Subject to change with advance notice.*

**Week 1: Plato (82 pp.)**

Monday, March 27: Course overview

Wednesday, March 29: Plato
   (Book II: 357a-376d, Book III: 386a-389d, 412b-417b, Book IV: 427d-434e, Book V: 472b-473e, Book VI: 487d-489c, VII: 514a-521c, 540a-541b)

Friday, March 31: Plato
   Reading: Plato, *The Republic*, pp. 116, 144-166
   (Book IV: 423e-424b, Book V: 449-466d)

**Week 2: Plato and Aristotle (76 pp.)**

Monday, April 3: Discussion

Wednesday, April 5: Aristotle
Friday, April 7: Discussion

Week 3: Machiavelli (85 pp.)

Wednesday, April 12: Machiavelli
   Reading: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedicatory Letter, Chapters 15-26

Thursday, April 13 (x-hour): Machiavelli
   Reading: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 1-14

Friday: Discussion

Week 4: Hobbes (73 pp.)

**Monday, April 17:** In-class midterm exam on Plato, Aristotle, and Machiavelli.

Wednesday, April 19: Hobbes
   Reading: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction and Chapters 13-21 (pp. 3-5, 74-145)

Thursday, April 20 (x-hour): Discussion

Week 5: Locke (68 pp.)

Monday, April 24: Locke
   Reading: Locke, *The Second Treatise*, Chapters 1-4, 7, 8 (only §§95-99, 119-122), 9-11, 19 (only §§211-231, 243) (pp. 7-18, 42-53, 63-75, 107-116, 123-134)

Wednesday, April 26 Locke
   Reading: Locke, *The Second Treatise*, Chapter 5 (pp. 18-30)

Friday, April 28: Discussion

Week 6: Rousseau (89 pp.)

Monday, May 1: Rousseau
   Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I-II

Wednesday, May 3: Rousseau
   Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book III (1-2, 10-16); Book IV (1-3, 8-9)

Thursday, May 4 (x-hour): Discussion

Week 7: Burke (50 pp.)
Monday, May 8: In-class midterm exam on Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau.

Wednesday, May 10: Burke

Thursday, May 11 (x-hour): Discussion

Week 8: Marx (51 pp.)

Monday, May 15: Marx

Wednesday, May 17: Marx
   Reading: Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program”

Friday, May 19: Discussion

Week 9: J.S. Mill (92 pp.)

Monday, May 22: Mill
   Reading: Mill, Utilitarianism, Chapter 2 (pp. 120-125 only)
   Mill, On Liberty, Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 18-35 only), and 3

Wednesday, May 24: Mill
   Reading: Mill, On Liberty, Chapters 4-5

Friday, May 26: Discussion

Final Exam: Saturday, June 3, 3:00pm

Final Paper Due: Tuesday, June 6, 12:00pm