

Brigham Young University
Department of Political Science
PL SC 201 — *Western Political Heritage I, Spring 2008*
MWF 8:00-9:50, 280 SWKT

Dr. Owen Yeates
Office hours: M 2:00-2:50, F 10:00-10:50, or by appointment

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Course Goals and Description

What is justice? What is freedom? How does human nature affect what we can achieve? How free are we to control the world around us, as well as our own destinies? How should we constitute our political systems to achieve our visions of the good life? What, if any, are the proper limits of political action? Political philosophers have composed many different theories to answer these questions and to criticize the answers of those who came before them. This course will explore these questions by engaging some of the most important and interesting works in the western philosophical tradition. We will examine alternate understandings of justice, freedom, equality, democracy, human nature, power, fate, virtue, and the good life.

For more on the learning outcomes and modes of assessment for political science courses at BYU, see: <http://fhss.byu.edu/polsci/assessment/Default.aspx>

Required Purchases

Homer, *Iliad* (Lattimore trans.), Chicago, ISBN 226469409
Peter J. Steinberger, *Readings in Classical Political Thought*, Hackett, ISBN 872205126
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Second Edition, Terence Irwin trans.), Hackett, ISBN 0872204642
Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty*, Augsburg, ISBN 800636074

Other reading assignments are available over the internet, through library databases, or on Blackboard.

Supplementary reading:

Christopher Rowe and Malcolm Schofield, *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought*, Cambridge, ISBN 9780521616690
W. T. Jones, *History of the Western Mind: The Classical Mind*, Wadsworth, ISBN 155383124
W. T. Jones, *History of the Western Mind: The Medieval Mind*, Wadsworth, ISBN 155383132

Assignments

Attendance and Participation: Your active, thoughtful participation in class is required. I will take attendance and monitor participation each day, and participation will be a component of your final grades. I will request copies of your daily reading summaries on random days, and these will figure into your participation scores as quizzes. These "quizzes," inasmuch as they are meant to encourage class participation and are a component of your participation grade, cannot be submitted early or made up. You will be able to drop one quiz score at the end of the semester. You should still write summaries for missed days and include them in your compiled

Reading summaries:	15%
Midterm:	30%
Final:	40%

Course Policies

1. **Honor code:** As a student at Brigham Young University, you have agreed to abide by its Honor code. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating on exams, submitting work that is even in part not your own, and submitting work that you have prepared for another class (without the instructor's permission), and attempting to deceive the instructor about the reason why an extension is needed or when an assignment was submitted. You should cite any material that you directly take or paraphrase from another source, and the former material should be placed in quotation marks. For more information on plagiarism, including standards the instructor will use to define plagiarism, see http://honorcode.byu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5302&Itemid=5698 and <http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/index.html>. Guides for citation are available at: <http://english.byu.edu/writingcenter/handouts/citationstyles/citationresources.htm> and <http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/cite/how.html>. Should the instructor encounter any instance of academic dishonesty, the offending student will receive a failing grade for the assignment, and may possibly receive a failing for the course and be reported to the Honor Code office for possible suspension or dismissal from the university.
2. **Laptops:** Laptop computers are to be used in classrooms for note taking and other academic purposes, as designated by the instructor. You should not use laptops for any other purpose, and the instructor reserves the right to ban individual students or the entire class from using laptops in class should he discover them being used for any non-approved purposes.
3. **Access:** Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB. Please contact the appropriate office at least two weeks before an assignment or exam for which you will need an accommodation.
4. **Absences:** If you miss class more than **five (5)** times, for whatever reason, you will receive a **failing grade** for this **course**. If you are gone from a class or for a portion of any class, it is your responsibility to get notes, assignments, and announcements from other students. You must take the midterm within the interval it is offered in the Testing Center and the final at its allotted time. To take any exam at another time, you must contact me prior to the exam and receive my approval. Approval requires corroboration of some extreme circumstance, e.g. a death in the family or a note demonstrating hospitalization, or extreme sickness. If you leave town prior to the final exam, you will receive a failing grade. No quiz can be made up because of an absence. If you miss a quiz due to an absence, it will count toward your dropped quiz. If you miss more than one, you will receive a score of zero for each quiz after the first, dropped quiz. You must turn in your assignments at their scheduled times. In rare circumstances, I will allow you to turn in an assignment late, but it must be submitted before the next class session. To qualify for this extension, you must contact me prior to the due date and receive my approval. Approval requires corroboration of some extreme circumstance, e.g. a death in the family or a

Week 4

- May 19: Plato, *Republic*, Book VIII
 May 21: Plato, *Republic*, Books IX and X (608b to end)
 *May 23: **Midterm**

Week 5

- May 26: No class for Memorial Day
 May 28: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Book I.1-4
 Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books I.1-9; II.1-5, 8-9
 May 30: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books III.1-3, 5, 7, 10-12

Week 6

- June 2: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books IV.3, 7, 9; V; VI.13
 Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books VI.1-5, 8, 13
 June 4: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I (1-7, 13); II (1-5, 12)
 June 6: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III
 Aristotle, *Politics*, Books IV (1, 3, 11), V (1), VI (1-5), VII (1-3, 13, 15)

Week 7

- June 9: Movie in Class: "True Story of Alexander the Great"; start reading Augustine
 June 11: 1 Samuel 8; Matthew 1-5; Romans 1-13
 Augustine, *City of God* (all selections in Steinberger text)
 June 13: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 3.6, 3.8, 5.9, 10.1
 Michael Gillespie, "The Theological Origins of Modernity,"
 (<http://proquest.umi.com.erl.lib.byu.edu/pqdlink?did=49457433&Fmt=6&clientId=9338&ROQ=309&VName=PQD>)

Week 8

- June 16: Luther, *On Christian Liberty*
 Tuesday, June 17, reading day
 Thursday, June 19, 7:00-8:50 a.m., final exam