

Brigham Young University
Department of Political Science
PL SC 201 — Western Political Heritage I, Winter 2008

Dr. Owen Yeates
Office hours: TTh 9:20-10:30, T 2:55-3:35

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201, Section 2	TTh 12:05 – 1:20	MARB 346
201, Section 3	TTh 1:35 – 2:50	MARB 346

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:

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 a component of your participation grade, cannot be made up. You should, however, include summaries for any missed days in your compiled summaries at the end of the semester.

Reading Summaries: Analytical summaries of the readings. These should identify fundamental concepts and arguments from the reading material and organize them into a clear and concise summary by first listing the central concepts and then showing how secondary concepts relate to the former in

the overall argument in the material. You should also discuss critical assumptions the author makes and how those assumptions limit the claims the author makes. In writing your summaries, be concise and precise. They should be between $\frac{1}{2}$ of a page and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page long in length, single-spaced. You should use Times New Roman 12-pt. font, and have 1-inch margins on all sides. As noted above, I will call for these on randomly selected days. You should have your summaries completed and printed before each class, and bring them with you to class. I will inspect and grade these, counting them as quizzes in your final grade. Students may be asked to read their summaries at the beginning of class.

The compiled summaries will be due at the end of your final (you can use them in answering the questions on your final). In compiling the summaries, you should title each summary, place three spaces between summaries, and put page numbers in the upper right corners. Print your summaries on both sides of the page, and put two pages per sheet. You should compile a table of contents at the beginning of the summaries. The table of contents should list, for each reading, the date the reading material was assigned, a title indicating the author and reading, and the page number for the summary. MS Word will automatically generate a table of contents; include the date and title as heading text before each summary and Word will then put them in the table of contents when you generate it. You should also include your name, course number, and teacher. Please staple the summaries at the top left corner with a heavy staple. You will lose points for any missing summaries. Please place your paper at the beginning of the compiled summaries.

Paper: You will write a 3-4 page paper comparing the authors through Plato's *Apology* and *Crito*. A draft will be submitted to the instructor once these sections of the course have been completed. You will then revise this paper and submit it as one of the summaries at the end of the semester; it should be placed as the first summary in the compiled summaries. The first draft will comprise a double quiz grade. The final draft will be a significant component of the grade for the reading summaries, and improvement will be a factor in the assessment of the final draft. You should submit the first, 3 to 4 page draft using Times New Roman 12-pt. font, double-spaced lines, 1-inch margins on all sides, and single-sided printing; the final draft should meet the requirements for the summaries. Please bring the first draft to class stapled (points will be deducted for not following this and other requirements). The topic will be announced approximately one week before first draft of the paper is due. While you should incorporate your views into the papers, you must also explicitly focus on the texts of the course. Papers that fail to adequately address the texts will be returned for rewriting. If you do not submit a first draft of your paper on the day assigned, you will receive a failing grade for the double quiz and will not receive any feedback from the instructor. Failure to include the paper in the compiled summaries will severely compromise the grade for reading summaries.

Course requirements

Participation and "quizzes":	10%
Reading summaries:	20%
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. Because of the potential and temptation for abuse, the instructor does not allow the use of laptops in any classroom in which wireless internet access is available. Furthermore, the instructor reserves the right to ban the use of laptops in any other classroom should he discover that any student is using them for non-academic 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 **nine (9)** times, for whatever reason, you will receive a **failing grade** for this **course**. For any absence, it is your responsibility to get notes and assignments 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 note demonstrating hospitalization, or extreme sickness. If you must miss class for any official university function, turn in the assignment prior to your absence. No extensions will be given after the fact.

5. **Comportment:** Everyone, including the instructor, is expected to treat the others in the class with respect and to act responsibly.
6. **Provisional schedule:** I reserve the right to change, remove, add to, or amend the syllabus, including but not limited to reading assignments and exam dates. Such changes will be announced in class, and

occasionally via Blackboard's email. It is your responsibility to be in class and aware of any changes announced there. I strongly urge you to become familiar with another class member early in the semester so that you can use this person as a resource should you miss class for any reason. In addition, you should arrange it so that you regularly check the messages at whichever email address you have affiliated with Blackboard.

Writing Center

The university provides an excellent resource for all students who wish for help in any stage of writing a paper. I encourage you to make use of the center in writing your paper. The Writing Center is located at 4026 JKB, and you may drop in or make an appointment. For more information, go to <http://english.byu.edu/writingcenter/>.

Class and Reading Schedule:

Days with a * indicate dates upon which assignments are due.

Week 1

Jan. 8: Introduction

Jan. 10: Homer, *Iliad*: I.1-222 [59-65], I.345-427 [68-70], I.493-611 [72-75], II.1-54 [76-77], III.1-IV.84 [100-115], V.1-469 [128-140], V.711-909 [147-152], VI.51-115 [154-156], VI.237-529 [159-167], VIII.1-40 [182-183], VIII.335-431 [191-193]

Week 2

Jan. 15: Homer, *Iliad*: IX.1-204 [198-203], IX.307-713 [206-217], XVI.626-867 [347-353], XVIII.1-147 [375-379], XIX.12-90 [392-394], XX.419-454 [415-416], XXII.1-409 [435-446], XXIV.1-187 [475-480], XXIV.468-691 [487-493]

Jan. 17: Sophocles, *Antigone* [ST: 117-135]

Week 3

Jan. 22: Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* [ST 35-58]

Jan. 24: cont.

Week 4

Jan. 29: Plato, *Apology* [ST 147-159] and *Crito* [ST 159-165]; skim Plato, *Euthyphro* [ST 139-147]

Jan. 31: Plato, *Republic*, Books I and II

Week 5

*Feb. 5: cont.; paper due

Feb. 7: Plato, *Republic*, Books III (414b to end) and IV

Week 6

Feb. 12: cont.

Feb. 14: Plato, *Republic*, Book V

Week 7

Feb. 19: No class

Feb. 21: Plato, *Republic*, Books VI and VII (514a-521c, 539e-541b)

Week 8

Feb. 26: Plato, *Republic*, Book VIII

Feb. 28: Plato, *Republic*, Books IX and X (608b to end)

Week 9

*Mar. 4: **MIDTERM**

Mar. 6: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Book I.1-4

Week 10

Mar. 11: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books I.1-9; II.1-5, 8-9

Mar. 13: Instructor gone: Movie in class (This day may take place anytime in March)

Week 11

Mar. 18: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books III.1-3, 5, 7, 10-12

Mar. 20: Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books IV.3, 7, 9; V; VI.13

Week 12

Mar. 25: A) Aristotle, *Ethics*, Books VI.1-5, 8, 13; X; B) Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I (1-7, 13); II (1-5, 12) [**Write 2 summaries for this, one for A) and one for B)**]

Mar. 27: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III

Week 13

Apr. 1: A) Aristotle, *Politics*, Books IV (1, 3, 11), V (1), VI (1-5), VII (1-3, 13, 15); B) 1 Samuel 8; Matthew 1-5; Romans 1-13 [**Write 2 summaries for this, one for A) and one for B)**]

Apr. 3: Instructor gone: read Boccaccio, *Decameron*, 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 3.6, 3.8, 5.9, 10.1, and discuss in forum on Blackboard's Discussion Board (text available at: <http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/decameron/engDecIndex.php> or http://digilander.libero.it/il_boccaccio/translate_english/index.html)

Week 14

Apr. 8: Augustine, *City of God* (selections)

Apr. 10: Michael Gillespie, "The Theological Origins of Modernity," (<http://proquest.umi.com.erl.lib.byu.edu/pqdlink?did=49457433&Fmt=6&clientId=9338&RQT=309&VName=PQD>); Start reading Luther

Week 15

Apr. 15: Luther, *On Christian Liberty*

*Final Exam: (compiled summaries due at end of final)

201, Sec. 2: Saturday, April 19, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

201, Sec. 3: Monday, April 21, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.