

**Politics and Political Inquiry**  
**Political Science 250-001, Fall 2008**  
**TR 8:00-9:15**  
**207 Maybank Hall**  
**Instructor: David Hinton**

**Objective:** This course is an overview of the development of Political concepts and approaches to the study of politics. We will focus on primary texts by classical and modern political thinkers. Our aim is to improve our understanding of the relationship between political thought and its historical context and to expand our abilities to comprehend, evaluate and discuss complex political ideas.

**Contact:** You may get in touch with me 4 ways:

- Speak with me after class.
- Make an appointment: Office: 953-4936. Home: 406-0761. Do **not** call after 5 pm
- Email: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) : Make the subject **PolInquiry** and I will see it
- My office: 26 Coming St., Room 301. Hours: Wed 12:30-1:30 p.m., Tues 11:15-12:15 p.m., and by appointment.

**Texts:** *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*, Steven M. Cahn, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002

*Brave New World* and *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley. Harper-Perennial, 2004.

**Class Policies:** 1) Attendance: If you miss 8 classes you will receive a failing grade (WA). 2) Be on time. 3) Stay Awake. If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) Turn off audible electronic devices. Do not talk on the telephone or “text” in class. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

**Grades:** There will be 2 exams, a paper, and a final exam. Exams will be short answer and essays. Your grade is assessed as follows:

- 20% each: Exams 1 & 2
- 15% Final Exam
- 25% Paper
- 20% Class Participation

Grading Scale	A 94-100 A- 91-93
	B+ 88-90 B 84-87 B- 81-83
	C+ 77-80 C 73-76 C- 69-72
	D+ 66-68 D-61-66
	F 60 and below

**Class Participation:** *In addition to the assigned readings, each student must sign up for specific days to contribute to discussion.* Do it: a) Express yourself b) Read to know the topic c) Be prepared to answer questions thoughtfully d) Experience awake-ness.

**Paper:** One 8-page paper is required for this course. You *must* get approval of your topic from the instructor. Your paper should compare a concept as it is approached by two different thinkers (i.e. Individual Liberty in Rousseau and Mill). I will provide a list of supplementary texts and websites which you will find useful.

Your work must be original. You need to investigate your topic using books and *scholarly journals*. You must use at least 5 books and/or journal articles as principal sources. Cite everything. All papers need internal citations and a works cited page! Plagiarism results in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Council.

Paper due dates will be announced in class.

### **Fall 2008 Political Inquiry Calendar**

Ag 26: Introduction; Political Violence: Morality & Politics: Melian Dialogue from Thucydides' *Peloponnesian Wars*

Ag 28: Civil Disobedience: Read Plato, "Crito", pp 23-31 and King, "Letter from a Birmingham City Jail", pp 1200-1209

Sp 2: Political Murder: read Camus, *Neither Victim Nor Executioner*:  
[www.ppu.org.uk/e\\_publications/camus1.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/e_publications/camus1.html) Follow the links. Read the whole text.

Sp 4: Justice & the Role of the State: read Plato, *Republic*, pp32-41, 66-76 (through line 436)

Sp 9: Political Science: Aiming at "the Good:" Read Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, pp 182-205

Sp 11: The Political Association and its Forms: read Aristotle, *Politics*, pp 222-236 & 240-242

Sp 16: Discussion: the role of the State: read Huxley, pp. 5-115

Sp 18: Peacekeeper Politics: read Augustine, *The City of G-d*, pp 300-308: How Christianity accommodated itself to Roman order

Sp 23: Types of Laws: read Aquinas, *Summa Theologicae*, pp 312-335

Sp 25: Politics as Power: read Machiavelli, *The Prince*, pp 339-342 & 345-358

Sp 30: **Exam 1**

Oc 2: The State of Nature: read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp 393-408, 415-441

Oc 7: Read Huxley, *BNW*, pp 115-231

Oc 9: Legitimate Government & the extent of the Law: read Locke, 2<sup>nd</sup> *Treatise on Government*, pp 461-485

Oc 14: **Fall Break**

Oc 16: Tyranny & Usurpation; Revolution when necessary: read Locke, 2<sup>nd</sup> *Treatise on Government*, pp 485-505

Oc 21: Liberty & Civic Virtue read Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp 532-546

Oc: 23: Liberty and Dictatorship: read Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp 547-566

Oc 28: Discussion of Liberalism

Oc 30: **Exam 2**

Nv 4: Justice as fairness: Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp 1038-1058: Can you get to the General Will from the Original Position?

Nv 6: How much liberty is practical?: read Mill, *On Liberty*, pp 927-954

Nv 11: Mill, pp 954-986: Liberty and Utility

Nv 13: Political Economy: read Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* and *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, pp 848-889

Nv 18: Discussion: the 19<sup>th</sup> Century legacy: socialism and liberalism, readings TBA

Nv 20: How much equality? Read Nagel, *Equality and Partiality*, pp 1080-1098

Nv 25: Read Huxley, *BNWR*, 235-261

Nv 27: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

[Nv 28: International *Buy Nothing Day*; buy nothing.]

Dc 2: Read Huxley, *BNWR*, 262-286, and Frankfurt, *On Bullshit* (Handout)

Dc 4: Last Class: Review for final

**Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 16, 8-11 a.m.**