

POLS 1700
Foundations of Political Theory
Fall 2021
MWF 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Professor Chris Duncan. Ph.D.

Instructor: Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.
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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the conceptual and analytic language and debates within the subfield of political theory. It is organized around ideas and questions that are both central and contested within politics and political life. Those questions include things like what is the proper definition of political liberty? What do we really mean by the idea of human equality? What constitutes a just political order? What is a state and to what extent can a state claim to be sovereign? What are rights and where do they come from? What is political ideology and how is it related to political theory? What does it mean to be a democracy and what are other alternatives for political organization? How do we deal with issues of difference and diversity with a political order? What makes the use of force or violence acceptable or unacceptable? Why should we obey the government and when, if ever, are we allowed to disobey? What do we do when the political values that we take for granted are in conflict with each other?

Course Objectives

The learning goals for the course include:

1. Students will be able to name and articulate a significant number of conceptual ideas that comprise the foundational language of political discourse in the contemporary world.
2. Students will learn why the basic terms of political discourse are contested and be able to explain the nature of the conflicts concerning definitions and understandings of key ideas from multiple perspectives.
3. Students will understand how interconnected political values and beliefs are organized into particular worldviews called ideologies and how those systems of thought have developed over time.

4. Students will be able to see how specific kinds of public policy and laws are connected to and emerge from certain ideological positions and theoretical presuppositions.
5. Students should begin by the end of the course to develop their own independent rationales for their own political and theoretical commitments and ideals.

Course Attributes

Social Science Req. (A & S)

Required Texts*

1. *Three Theban Plays* by Sophocles (or any e-version of *Antigone*)
2. *Introduction to Political Theory* (3rd Edition) by John Hoffman & Paul Graham

*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(10) Quizzes	100 points (10 points each)
(1) Mid-term Examination	150 points
(1) Final Examination	<u>150 points</u>
	400 points total

Grade Scale in Points

400-368=	A
367-360=	A-
359-348=	B+
347-328=	B
327-320=	B-
319-312=	C+
311-288=	C
387-280=	C-
279-220=	D
Below 220=	F

Examinations and Quizzes

Quizzes will be administered through the course’s Black Board site. They will open and close at specific times and will be multiple choice/true and false.

The mid-term exam and the final will be comprised of both timed online components (multiple choice/true-false) and integrative essay and short answer questions. The instructor will provide a grading rubric prior to be used prior to the first exam.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

September 6	No Class (Labor Day)
October 1	No Class (APSA Meeting)
October 15	No Class
October 29	No Class (Fall Break)
November 24-26	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Course Outline

Dates	Topic	Readings
August 25-30	Tragedy & The Birth of Political Philosophy	<i>Antigone</i> (all)

Quiz #1: September 1

September 1- 8	Introduction to Political Theory &The Question of Power	Text pps. 1-11
September 10-15	The State and Sovereignty	Chapter 1

Quiz # 2: September 17

September 17-22	Freedom and Political Liberty	Chapter 2
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Quiz #3: September 24

September 24-29	Equality and Politics	Chapter 3
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Quiz # 4: October 4

October 4-8 Justice and Fairness Chapter 4

Quiz #5: October 11

Midterm Examination Posted Monday, October 11th
Midterm Examination Due, Monday, October 18th by 5 p.m.

October 11-18 Democracy: Theory and Praxis Chapter 5

Quiz #6: October 20

October 20-25 Theory and Citizenship Chapter 6

October 27-Nov. 3 Liberalism and Conservatism Chaps. 8-9

November 5-10 Socialism and Anarchism Chaps. 10-11

Quiz # 7: November 12

November 12-17 Nationalism and Fascism Chaps. 12-13

Quiz # 8: November 19

November 19-29 Feminism Chap. 14

Quiz # 9: December 1

December 1-6 Human Rights Chap. 18

December 8-10 Violence Chap. 20

Quiz #10: December 10

Final Exam Posted Friday, December 10th
Final Exam Due Wednesday, December 15th before 5p.m.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is “the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at accessibility_disability@slu.edu or by phone at [314.977.3484](tel:314.977.3484). Once approved, information about a student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and within the instructor’s official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

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Statement on Face Masks (2021-2022)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, key safeguards like face masks have allowed SLU to safely maintain in-person learning. If public health conditions and local, state, and federal restrictions demand it, the University may require that all members of our campus community wear face masks indoors.

Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class. This expectation will apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect, the following will apply:

- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.
- Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.
- Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University-wide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:
 - dismissal from the course(s)
 - removal from campus housing (if applicable)
 - dismissal from the University
- To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a University-wide face mask requirement.

When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [ADA Policy](#). Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the [Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity](#). Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

In-Person Class Attendance and Participation

The health and well-being of SLU's students, staff, and faculty are critical concerns, as is the quality of our learning environments. Accordingly, the following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any [potential COVID-19 symptoms](#) (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the [University Student Health Center](#) for immediate assistance.
2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID-19 symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official

must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.

3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with the instructor to complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on their health situation.
4. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a student's ability to attend and/or participate in class for an extended period of time.
5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, shall be considered "Authorized" absences

Discrimination Policy:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (Du Bourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp> To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.