

**POLS 1700**  
**Foundations of Political Theory**  
**Fall 2020**  
**MWF 12:00-12:50**  
**Professor Chris Duncan. Ph.D.**

**Instructor:** Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** MW 9-11 and by appointment via Zoom or In-Person  
**Phone:** 314-977-9862  
**Class Meets:** Center for Global Citizenship Room 124A

**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* (3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

October 19                      Fall Break (no classes)

**Course Outline**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
August 17-21	Tragedy & The Birth of Political Philosophy	<i>Antigone</i> (all)
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Quiz #1</b>	
August 24-28	Introduction to Political Theory &The Question of Power	Text pps. 1-11
August 31-Sept. 4	The State and Sovereignty	Chapter 1
<b>September 4</b>	<b>Quiz # 2</b>	
September 7-11	Freedom and Political Liberty	Chapter 2
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Quiz #3</b>	
September 14-18	Equality and Politics	Chapter 3
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Quiz # 4</b>	

September 21-25	Justice and Fairness	Chapter 4
<b>September 25</b>	<b>Quiz #5</b>	
Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Democracy: Theory and Praxis	Chapter 5
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Quiz #6</b>	
October 5-9	Theory and Citizenship	Chapter 6
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Midterm Examination Opened</b>	
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Midterm Examination Closed</b>	
October 12-16	Liberalism and Conservatism	Chaps. 8-9
October 21-26	Socialism and Anarchism	Chaps. 10-11
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Quiz # 7</b>	
October 28-30	Nationalism and Fascism	Chaps. 12-13
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Quiz # 8</b>	
November 2-9	Feminism and Multiculturalism	Chaps. 14-15
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Quiz # 9</b>	
Nov. 11-13	Fundamentalism	Chapter 17
November 16-23	Human Rights, Civil Disobedience & Violence	Chaps. 18-20
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Quiz #10</b>	
<b>November 25</b>	<b>Final Exam Opened</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	<b>Final Exam Closed</b>	

## **Academic Integrity and Honor Code**

*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](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 Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services 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 Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

*Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard language for syllabus statements related to disability accommodations. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for syllabus requirements from their dean’s office.*

## **Student Success Center:**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about: Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor. University-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets

of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).

### **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 (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [anna.kratky@slu.edu](mailto: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](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.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory in person for those who are registered for in-person classes. Any student with more than **2** absences automatically has his or her total points reduced by 10. All subsequent absences reduce the grade by **10 points** each time. For those students who have either opted to take the class virtually or find themselves at some point in the semester unable to attend in person, they are required to view the digitally captured class sessions within two days of the original class through the course's Black Board site. Failure to view the class session in its entirety will be treated like an in-person class absence. If for some reason the nature of the student's illness or other events outside of their control prevents the student from participating as required they should contact the instructor immediately to make alternative arrangements for fulfilling the course requirements.

### **Mandatory Statement on Face Masks (Fall 2020)**

The University's [Interim Policy on Face Masks](#) governs all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors in all University-owned, leased, or operated facilities. All persons physically present in

any such University facility associated with this course shall comply fully with this policy at all times. Masks must be worn before entry to all such University facilities (as well as outdoors on all University property when six feet of distance is unpredictable or cannot be maintained).

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 or Human Resources to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [ADA Policy](#). Inquires 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).

As the instructor of this course, I shall comply fully with SLU's policy and all related ADA regulations.

Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to wear masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks at any time during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.

***Note: Accordingly, no consumption of any food will be allowed in class.***

Students who do not comply with a request by a SLU instructor to wear a mask in accordance with the University's *Interim Policy on Face Masks* may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to 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 faculty or staff request to wear a mask in accordance with University policy.

Students are strongly encouraged to identify to their instructor any student or instructor not in compliance. Non-compliance may be anonymously reported via the SLU Integrity Hotline at 1-877-525-5669 (or confidentially via the Integrity Hotline's website at <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu>).

## **Additional Policies/FAQs**

### **How should a student report an absence?**

If you must miss class, please contact your instructor by e-mail to inform them of your absence. Notification should be provided at least one hour before class, if possible.

### **How can a student who is unable to be present in class participate in class remotely?**

Students who are unable to physically attend class but are well enough to participate remotely are expected to do so. If you are a student registered to take the class in-person but need to participate in class remotely, notify your course instructor or teaching assistant by e-mail at least **3 hours** before class begins. This class is being live-streamed on Zoom; the Zoom link is available on the course home page in Blackboard.

### **What happens if the course instructor is ill or quarantined?**

If your course instructor has to quarantine but is well enough to teach, students will be notified by the instructor via email, and class will meet remotely on Zoom at the regularly scheduled time. The Zoom link is available on the course web page in Blackboard. If your course instructor becomes ill and is unable to continue teaching, an alternative instructor will teach the course for as long as necessary.