



Professor Mark Tunick
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POT 3021 Honors History of Political Theory

Fall 2023, 3 credits

Office Hours: by arrangement via zoom or in person. See Canvas for details.

Class meets TR 12:30-1:50

Description: Introduction to important works of political theory spanning over 2,000 years that address issues such as: What is justice? What makes a government legitimate? Under what conditions is revolution justified? How does human nature constrain the possibilities available to us in politics? In addition to addressing such questions, many of our readings address related ethical questions such as how do we determine which actions are right or wrong? If doing what is right goes against one's self-interest, why do what is right?

This course satisfies the Honors College core requirement in Culture, Ideas, and Values; the Social and Behavioral Analysis Group B requirement; and the Global Citizenship--Ethics requirement, as well as the political theory requirement for the Political Science Concentration; and it is an elective for the Law and Society and Philosophy concentrations. It is also a Gordon Rule course. You must achieve a grade of "C" (not C-minus) or better to receive credit towards this requirement. Finally, this class meets the University-wide Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) criteria, which expect you to improve your writing over the course of the term. If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide WAC assessment program, you will be required to access the online assessment server, complete the consent form and survey, and submit electronically a first and final draft of a paper.

There are no pre or co-requisites for this course. No late papers will be accepted without a valid medical excuse. Consult the FAU catalog for FAU's policy on incompletes.

Goals: Students will obtain an understanding of the central concerns of political theorists and the debates they have engaged in; sharpen their critical thinking skills both in reading challenging texts and addressing fundamental political questions; and develop their skills in scholarship and writing.

Requirements: Students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Class will consist of either discussion, or a combination of lecture and discussion. Participation is essential.

Readings: The following texts are required and available for purchase at the bookstore or online and digital editions may be available as well: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Dover: ISBN 9780486272740, \$4 new); John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett: ISBN: 9780915144860, \$10 new); Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett: ISBN 9780872201668, \$10 digital); Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* (Signet Classics, 9780451530998, \$5.95 new). All other readings are available in Canvas.

Grading will be based on class participation (10%), quizzes and brief writing assignments (25%); 2 papers of at least 6 pages each, the first of which will be turned in twice: as a draft, and as a revision that responds to feedback to the draft (25% for 1st paper, 20% for 2nd paper), and a take-home essay-based final exam (20%). Papers and exam essays will require responding to prompts and providing critical analysis of the assigned texts and construction of an interpretive position and will be graded based on quality of the critical analysis, extent to which relevant texts are drawn on and properly cited, coherence, clarity and conciseness, and grammatical correctness. Substantial

feedback will be provided for each writing assignment. Papers turned in late will be penalized. The default grading scale is 94-100 (A), 90<94 (A-), 87<90 (B+), 84<87 (B), 80<84 (B-), 77<80 (C+), 74<77 (C), 70<74 (C-), 67<70 (D+), 64<67 (D), 61<64 (D-), <61 (F). I may utilize a curve but only if doing so would yield a higher rather than a lower grade than what the student would earn using the default scale.

Attendance: As this is a discussion-based class, attendance is crucial. For each unexcused absence beyond 2 you will lose 1.5 points. Quizzes not taken on time cannot be made up.

Students agree to adhere to the **honor code**,

http://www.fau.edu/divdept/honcol/academics_honor_code.htm

Schedule of Topics and Readings: The readings listed under each class are to be done prior to that class meeting. Be sure to read the introductory material in Canvas for each class.

Check Canvas for updated schedule of topics and readings.

8/22. Introduction

Reading: 'The Greeks and the Greek Polis' lecture notes in Canvas

8/24. The Greek polis

Rdg: Plato, *Apology*, and *Crito* (25 pages total, medium difficulty).

8/29. Socrates and Plato

Rdg: Plato, Republic Bk 1 (16 pages, medium difficulty); Williams, *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, pp.26-29, 47-54 on 'Nominalizations' (up to exercise 3.7).

Brief writing assignment on Socrates due.

8/31. Plato's Republic; mini writing-workshop

Rdg: Plato, Republic Bks 2-4, excerpts (48 pages, medium difficulty); Williams, *Style*, pp. 54-66

For this and next class: 'Plato and the Republic' lecture notes (in Canvas)

Assignment: Do Exercise 3.13 #2, 3, and 5.

Note: those of you who have difficulty with punctuation should work through the 'Appendix' in Williams *Style* prior to working on your first paper (pp. 221-42).

9/5. Plato's Republic

Rdg: Plato, Republic Bks 5-10, excerpts (89 pages, medium difficulty)

9/7. Aristotle

Rdg: 'Aristotle' Lecture Notes, in Canvas; Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*: excerpts from Books 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 (29 pages, medium difficulty)

9/12. Aristotle

Rdg: Aristotle, *Politics*: excerpts from Books 1-5, 7-8 (53 pages, medium difficulty)

Paper One Draft Due

9/14. Machiavelli and the Renaissance

Rdg: Machiavelli, *Mandragola* ('The Mandrake Root')(26 pages, easy).

9/19. Machiavelli

Rdg: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (70 pages, easy-medium difficulty)

Recommended: Machiavelli, *Discourses* (excerpts)

9/21. Thomas Hobbes

Rdg: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1660), Introduction and Part One chs 10-14 (19 pages, medium-hard difficulty); 'Hobbes Lecture Notes' in Canvas.

Leviathan Study Questions

9/26. Thomas Hobbes

Rdg: Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Part Two chs 15-21 (33 pages, medium-hard difficulty)

9/28. Thomas Hobbes

Rdg: Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Part Two chs 26-30 (26 pages, medium-hard difficulty)

10/3. The Putney Debates and the English Revolution

Rdg: Putney Debates (1647)(Canvas); and; '**An Agreement of the People**' (online)(13 pages, medium difficulty)

Revision of Paper One due

10/5. John Locke

Rdg: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690), Preface, chapters 1-5 (29 pages, medium difficulty)

10/10. Locke's Constitutional theory

Rdg: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6-15 (61 pages, medium difficulty)

For those interested: Tunick, "John Locke and the Right to Bear Arms," *History of Political Thought* 35(1):50-69 (2014), [online](#).

10/12. Locke on the right of rebellion

Rdg: Locke *Second Treatise*, chapters 16-19 (33 pages, medium difficulty)

Assignment: Williams, *Style*, 96-110 (stress and emphasis), and 209-220 (Canvas), and additional assignment online.

10/17. Burke and Conservatism

Rdg: 'The French Revolution and Enlightenment' lecture notes, and 'Burke Lecture Notes', in Canvas; Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, [online](#) (1 page, easy); Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (excerpts, 28 pages: easy-medium difficulty); Burke Additional passages (1 page)

For those interested: Complete text of *Reflections* available at [google books](#).

10/19. The Burke-Paine Debate

Rdg: Paine, *Rights of Man* (excerpts)(8 pages, easy-medium difficulty); 'Paine Lecture Notes' in Canvas.

Video clip from 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner'

For those interested: Kazuo Ishiguro, *A Pale View of Hills* (1982), novel that addresses traditions vs new ways

10/24. Jeremy Bentham: against Burke and Paine

Rdg: Bentham, *Anarchical Fallacies* (9 pages, medium difficulty); and *The Book of Fallacies* (16 pages, medium difficulty); 'Bentham' lecture notes.

Paper Two Due

10/26. Bentham's Utilitarianism

Rdg: Bentham, from *Principles of Morals and Legislation* (1789)(19 pages, medium difficulty); 'Bentham's Utilitarianism' lecture notes.

10/31. Dickens' critique of utilitarianism

Rdg: Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* (1854)(300 pages; easy)

Note: Plan to read this novel so you are ready to discuss it during this class and take the quiz at the start of class.

Clips from Preston Surges' film 'Sullivan's Travels' (1941)

11/2. Immanuel Kant: against Bentham's utilitarianism

Rdg: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785)(Preface and First Section, 18 pages, hard difficulty); reread Machiavelli, *The Prince* ch. 18

11/7. Kant's ethical theory

Rdg: Kant, *Groundwork*, Second and Third Sections (44 pages); and 'On a Supposed Right to Lie' (5 pages) (49 pages, hard difficulty)

11/9. G.W.F. Hegel: against Burkean conservatism, utilitarianism, and Kant

Reading: Hegel, "Reason in History" (Introduction to Philosophy of History), excerpts; and Hegel, *Philosophy of Right* Preface, excerpts (pp. 1-8); and 'Hegel' lecture notes in Canvas. (41 pages, hard difficulty)

11/14. Hegel's conception of freedom

Rdg: *Philosophy of Right* (1821), Introduction, excerpts (pp. 8-14, hard difficulty); and 'Hegel's Conception of Freedom' lecture notes in Canvas.

11/16. Hegel's theory of morality, family, and state

Rdg: *Philosophy of Right* Excerpts (pp. 14-27, hard difficulty)

11/21. Marx and the Young Hegelians

Rdg: Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (1844), excerpts (5 pages, medium-hard difficulty); *German Ideology* (1845), excerpts (17 pages, hard difficulty); *Communist Manifesto* (1848), excerpts (17 pages, easy-medium difficulty)(39 pages total)

11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28. Marx's critique of capitalism

Rdg: Marx, *Capital* (1867): excerpts (27 pages, medium difficulty).

11/30. Review and Wrap-up

12/7: Take-home Final Exam due at 2pm:

Rdg for the exam: Marquis de Sade, "Yet Another Effort, Frenchmen, If You Would Become Republicans" from *Philosophy in the Bedroom*

For further reading:

Greeks, Plato, Aristotle

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*; E.R. Dodds, *The Greeks and the Irrational*; W. Jaeger, *Paideia*; H.D.F. Kitto, *The Greeks*; Martha Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy*; Bruno Snell, *The Discovery of the Mind*; Leo Strauss, *The City and Man*; G. Vlastos, *Socrates, Ironist and Moral Philosopher*; Sheldon Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, chapter 2; J.L. Ackrill, *Aristotle the Philosopher*; E. Barker, *The Politics of Aristotle*, Introduction

Machiavelli:

A. H. Gilbert, *Machiavelli's Prince and its Forerunners*; Hanna Pitkin, *Fortune is a Woman*; J.A. G. Pocock, *The Machiavellian Moment*

Hobbes:

D.P. Gauthier, *The Logic of Leviathan*; Terry Heinrichs, "Hobbes and the Coleman Thesis," *Polity* 16(4):647-66 (1984), at [jstor](#); C.B. Macpherson, *The Theory of Possessive Individualism*, Hobbes to Locke; Richard Tuck, *Hobbes*

Locke:

Richard Ashcraft, 'Revolutionary Politics and Locke's Two Treatises', *Political Theory* (Nov. 1980), at [jstor](#); John Dunn, *Political Thought of John Locke* (1969); Peter Laslett, ed. *Locke's Two Treatises*, Introduction; James Farr, "'So vile and miserable an estate': The problem of slavery in Locke's Political Thought," *Political Theory* 14:263-89 (May, 1986), at [jstor](#); Alex Tuckness, 'Punishment, Property, and the Limits of Altruism: Locke's International Asymmetry', *APSR* 102(4):467-79 (2008), at [jstor](#); Mark Tunick, "John Locke and the Right to Bear Arms," *History of Political Thought* 35(1):50-69 (2014), [online](#).

Burke and the French Revolution

Burke, "Philosophical Enquiry into the Origins of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful," "Speech on Fox's East-India Bill," *A Vindication of Natural Society*, Letter to a Member of the National Assembly
Isaac Kramnick, *The Rage of Edmund Burke, Portrait of an Ambivalent Conservative* (psychobiography) (1979); C.B. Macpherson, *Burke* (1980); Michael McConnell, "Establishment and Toleration in Edmund Burke's 'Constitution of Freedom'", *Supreme Court Review* 1995:393-462 (1995); Peter Stanlis, *Edmund Burke: The Enlightenment and Revolution* (1991)

Hegel

Hegel, *Early Theological Writings*, *Natural Law*, *Propaedeutik*, *Philosophy of History*, *Philosophy of Mind* (Vol. 3 of the *Encyclopaedia*), *Phenomenology of Spirit*, *Political Writings* (especially the essays "The German Constitution" and "The English Reform Bill"); Shlomo Avineri, *Hegel's Theory of the Modern State*; Hugh Reayburn, *The Ethical Theory of Hegel* (1921); Steven B. Smith, *Hegel's Critique of Liberalism* (1989); Mark Tunick, *Hegel's Political Philosophy* (1992); Tunick, "Are there Natural Rights?--Hegel's Break with Kant," in Collins, ed. *Hegel and the Modern World* (1994); Tunick,

"Hegel's Justification of Hereditary Monarchy," *History of Political Thought*, vol. 12, no. 3 (1991), available **online**; Tunick, "Hegel on Justified Disobedience," *Political Theory* 26:514-535 (August 1998), available online at **jstor**; Tunick, "Hegel's Claim about Democracy and his Philosophy of History," in Dudley, ed. *Hegel and History* (2009); Tunick, "Hegel and the Consecrated State," in *Hegel on Religion and Politics*, ed. Angelica Nuzzo (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2013).

Marx, Marxism, and Left Hegelianism

Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts, Capital*; Shlomo Avineri, *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*; Isaiah Berlin, *Karl Marx*; Terrell Carver, *Engels* (1981); Engels, *Origin of Family, Private Property, and the State*; Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity*; Lawrence Stepelevich, ed. *The Young Hegelians: An Anthology* (1983); Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the 21st Century* (Harvard University Press, 2014)

Additional notes:

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Policy on Accommodations In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses -- Boca Raton, SU 131 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter and all Northern Campuses, SR 111F (561-799-8585). Disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Academic Integrity Policy: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 and

<http://www.fau.edu/divdept/honcol/students/honorcode.html>

Classroom Etiquette Policy: In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.

Policy on Recording in Class: by state law, audio or video recordings of class lectures is permitted only for personal educational use and may NOT be published. Publication, which refers to circulating, sharing, or distributing with anyone (including classmates) or on social media or other media formats is by law subject to penalties up to \$200,000. In addition, failure to adhere to this policy may constitute a violation of the honor code. Recording of class discussions is not permitted unless the student has an accommodation granted by Student Accessibility Services. Students who request recording of class lectures or discussions under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact Student Accessibility Services to obtain such permission or accommodation, and must otherwise comply with the requirements of SAS. Information for the SAS is available at <http://www.fau.edu/sas/>.

updated 7/7/2023