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Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00 – 4:45 p.m., Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:45 p.m., and by appointment

POLITICAL SCIENCE 120, SPRING 2012
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THINKING (M3)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:10 to 2:20 p.m., Comenius 114

This introductory course offers students five key texts that have shaped the history of political ideas: Plato's *Apology* and *Crito* (circa 399 B.C.E.), Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince* (1532), John Locke's *A Letter on Toleration* (1689), and Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (1963). The questions we will ask of these texts are classic ones such as the following:

How should I think about the world?
What should I do? What should we do?
How should we encounter one another?
How should we arrange our lives together?
Who should rule?
What are the legitimate limits of political or state power?

These questions share a concern for norms. The emphasis falls on one recurring word: should. This means that normative political theory investigates situations in which knowing the facts will not suffice. Normative theory must address unclear, conflictual, or otherwise complex situations. This means that students of political theory must engage obligations and values as explicit sites of inquiry.

To do this, we must attend to our texts with care. I invite you to find the connections between texts that have held the attention of political theorists over time and your present day experience of the personal and the political. True to the liberal arts tradition, our group will engage in close readings of the text as well as argumentative discussion. This course satisfies the Ultimate Questions (M3) requirements of the Learning in Common Curriculum (LinC) and is required for all Political Science majors.

Books for sale at the Moravian College Bookstore:

- 1) Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett)
 - 2) Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (University of Chicago Press)
 - 3) John Locke, *A Letter on Toleration* (Hackett)
 - 4) Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (Penguin)
- Other required reading will be made available on reserve at Reeves Library or online.

Course objectives:

- 1) To acquire canonical and contemporary literacy in political theory
- 2) To improve verbal and written expression with reference to textual evidence
- 3) To expand and deepen an account of the political
- 4) To ask critical questions regarding political matters
- 5) To reflect on language usage inside and outside of the classroom
- 6) To gain critical distance from naïve realism

Course Calendar

Tuesday, January 17	1) Introduction
Thursday, January 19	2) What is Political Theory?
Tuesday, January 24	3) Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , The Cave (Kevin Bracken)
Thursday, January 26	4) William Deresiewicz, "The End of Solitude" (Cody Florindi)
Tuesday, January 31	5) In-class essay: How should we know the world?
Thursday, February 2	6) Plato, <i>Apology</i> (Emily Lambright)
Tuesday, February 7	7) <i>Apology</i> (continued) (Yueting Li)
Thursday, February 9	8) The Trial of Socrates (film, 1982)
Tuesday, February 14	Noon: Rev. Jesse Jackson speaks in Johnston Hall, class cancelled
Thursday, February 16	9) <i>Crito</i> (Jacqueline Raia)
Tuesday, February 21	11) Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , Chronology Letter to the Magnificent Lorenzo de Medici, Chapters I-VI (Casey Scanlan)
Thursday, February 23	12) Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i> (film, 2006)
Tuesday, February 28	13) <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters VII-XIII (Steven Paradiso)
Thursday, March 1	14) <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters XIV-XX (Brad Fosbenner)
	SPRING RECESS
Tuesday, March 13	15) <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters XXI-XVI (Sam Anzman)
Thursday, March 15	16) Examination: Plato, Machiavelli
Tuesday, March 20	17) Film: John Locke (2004)
Thursday, March 22	18) John Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration</i> , pp. 1-45 (Sam Dunn)
Tuesday, March 27	19) <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration</i> , pp. 46-78 (Ryan Barwick)
Thursday, March 29	20) Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> , Chapter I: "The House of Justice," (Kevin Brennan) and Chapter II: "The Accused" (Zach Mastropiero)
Tuesday, April 3	21) <i>Eichmann</i> , Chapter III: "An Expert on the Jewish Question," (Chris Soltys) and Chapter VII: "The Wannsee Conference or Pontius Pilate" (Greg Long)

EASTER RECESS

Tuesday, April 10	22) Documentary footage: Witnesses to the Holocaust-The Trial of Adolf Eichmann (1987)
Thursday, April 12	23) <i>Eichmann</i> , Chapter VIII: “Duties of a Law-Abiding Citizen,” (Georgina Hanna) Chapter IX: “Deportations from the Reich—Germany, Austria, and the Protectorate” (Angela Rigopoulos)
Tuesday, April 17	24) <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> , Chapter XIII: “The Killing Centers in the East,” (Amanda Smilgis) Chapter XIV: “Evidence and Witnesses” (Morgan Redmond)
Thursday, April 19	25) <i>Eichmann</i> , Chapter XV: “Judgment, Appeal, and Execution,” (Zach Ortman), Epilogue, and Postscript (Megan Mummey)
Tuesday, April 24	26) Deborah E. Lipstadt, <i>The Eichmann Trial</i> , Chapter 6 (on reserve) (Kristianna Prato)
Thursday, April 26	27) Paper workshop and course evaluations
Thursday, May 3	Final paper due to Mrs. Ortiz, Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.

Assignments and evaluation

Requirement	Calendar	%
Engagement	Ongoing	25
In-class essay	1/31	15
Discussion questions	Once, to be scheduled	10
Examination Plato, Machiavelli	3/15	25
Final paper	5/3	25

What does an engagement grade represent?

- A Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.
- B Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions; engagement of the arguments of others.
- C Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.
- D Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.
- F Persistent, vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature

General Course Information

- 1) I invite you to visit my office hours. Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. I am happy to help you with difficulties relating to your reading of our texts as well as challenges that may arise with regard to assignments. In general, please make use of my office hours. It is my pleasure to help you improve your enjoyment of and performance in this course.
- 2) Be diligent in your studies and attend class. Undocumented absences beyond the first will harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% of your total course grade (per absence).
- 3) This is an academic setting in which the goal is thoughtful discourse. Neither food consumption, nor mobile phone noise, nor phone activity (texting or searching) of any kind is permitted. Students who disturb the contemplative and discursive atmosphere of learning will be asked to leave the room for the rest of class.
- 4) Expect to work six hours on average outside of class per week. The workload varies, and the texts can be challenging. Give yourself plenty of time to read, review, and take notes on texts. Our interest is in deep readings and in gaining a solid toolkit of political theory questions, concepts, and arguments.
- 5) In order to pass this course, you must submit all assignments.
- 6) We will discuss written assignments two weeks in advance. I will offer instructions on how to prepare for examinations in the class preceding the examination date.
- 7) I strongly discourage late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment. Late work is penalized at 50% of the assignment grade.
- 8) Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment in this class. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>
- 9) Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a learning disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.
- 10) Please also note that this syllabus is subject to change.

Please support a culture of intellectual discussion.