



**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY**

Phil 332: Political Philosophy
Fall 2008

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Phil 201/202
Days and hours: MWF 10:10-11:00
Classroom: Hannon Hall 132
Instructor: Richard F. Hassing, Associate Professor
Aquinas Hall 209
202 319-6657
office hours: Monday and Tuesday 1:00-3:00 or by appt.
email: hassing@cua.edu
Kindly note that in accordance with School of Philosophy policy, I will not accept written assignments via email attachment, except in cases of rare exigency.

Course Description: Unlike the other animals, we humans are not guided in our behavior by instinct. We have to think and use reason about how to live. Like many other animals, we are social, so we have to reason about how *we* should live, together. We pursue this question here through the study of several classical texts in political philosophy. Guiding questions are:

- What does the word ‘political’ identify (compared to the words, ‘legal’, ‘ethical’, ‘moral’, ‘theological’, ‘medical’, ‘psychological’, ‘social’, ‘economic’, ‘mathematical’, ‘physical’, ‘biological’, ‘technological’)?
- How is politics most accurately studied, or, what does it, or should it mean to be “scientific” in the study of politics?
- Who should rule, and what are the forms of rule or government?
- Does human being have a nature in a sense that is relevant for political order?

Instructional Method: Old fashioned: we all *read the readings, and the instructor lectures about them, and we all ask questions and discuss, in class.

*Please see the notes on philosophical reading posted on Dr. Brad Lewis’s website:
<http://faculty.cua.edu/lewisb/Reading.htm>

Course Goals: The course aims to introduce students to the philosophical study of politics by means of primary sources in the history of political philosophy. It thus aims to open students to the possibility that we are the being that is changed and made better by the knowing of itself.

Required Texts (four):

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), *The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr.

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), *Leviathan*, ed. C. B. Macpherson.

John Locke (1632-1704), *The Second Treatise of Government*, in any edition (cite by chapter and section number).

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), *The First and Second Discourses*, trans. Roger D. Masters and Judith R. Masters.

Additional materials to be downloaded from Electronic Blackboard: Excerpts from Aristotle's *Politics*.

Aquinas on law.

Others as needed.

<http://bb.cua.edu>

Username: PHIL332HASS

Password: polphil

Course Requirements:

Two midterm examinations, dates TBD

A short paper (about 5 pages), due Dec. 1

Final examination, Dec. 10, 8:00-10:00am.

A few words about the requirements:

- The final examination will take place as scheduled (above). Please do not book airline tickets or any other plans that would require you to leave campus prior to that date. Absent grave cause, I will not reschedule the final examination.
- Attendance will be taken, more than three absences will result in a lowering of your grade for the course, more than seven absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Should you arrive late for a class, please check with me at the end of the meeting to ensure that your attendance was registered. Don't forget to do this because my memory is worse than yours.
- The due date for the short paper will be strictly observed. In the absence of grave cause, assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized at the rate of a partial letter-grade per day (for example, a B paper one day late will be marked down to a B-). What constitutes "grave cause" is subject to my discretion. Should you anticipate an inability to complete the paper by the due date, please consult with me well in advance; an extension may be possible, again subject to my discretion.

Expectations and Policies:

Academic honesty: Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student's own work, cheating, and fabrication. The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from

<http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm>): "The

presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student's past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate." Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm> and <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm>.

Connectedness Impulse Management: Please turn off cell phones during class. If you insist on engaging in instant-messaging during class, be prepared for an instant absence, should I notice.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: <http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu>.

Assessment:

First mid-term:	20%
Second mid-term:	25%
Paper:	20%
Final exam:	35%

University Grades:

The University grading system is available at <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/gradesfull.cfm#II> for undergraduates. Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on <http://cardinalstation.cua.edu>.

Tentative Course Schedule:

M Aug 25	Introduction
W Aug 27	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
F Aug 29	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
M Sep 1	No class (Labor Day)
W Sep 3	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
F Sep 5	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
M Sep 8	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
W Sep 10	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
F Sep 12	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
M Sep 15	Aquinas, On Law and Reason
W Sep 17	Aquinas, On Law and Reason
F Sep 19	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>

M Sep 22	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
W Sep 24	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
F Sep 26	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
M Sep 29	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
W Oct 1	Summing up Machiavelli
F Oct 3	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
M Oct 6	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
W Oct 8	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
F Oct 10	No class
M Oct 13	No class (Columbus Day)
T Oct 14	No class (but Admin Monday). Assignment: read Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> , Chap. 1-4
W Oct 15	No class. Assignment: read Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> , Chap. 5
F Oct 17	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
M Oct 20	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i>
W Oct 22	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i>
F Oct 24	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i>
M Oct 27	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i>
W Oct 29	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i>
F Oct 31	Summing up: Aristotle-Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes-Locke
M Nov 3	Summing up: Aristotle-Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes-Locke
W Nov 5	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
F Nov 7	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
M Nov 10	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
W Nov 12	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
F Nov 14	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
M Nov 17	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
W Nov 19	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i>
F Nov 21	TBD (there'll be lots to discuss)
M Nov 24	TBD (cont.)
W Nov 26	No class (Thanksgiving)
F Nov 28	No class (Thanksgiving)
M Dec 1	Papers due.
W Dec 3	Review: synthesis of major themes
F Dec 5	Last day: Review (cont.)
M Dec 8	
W Dec 10	Final Examination, 8:00-10:00