

**Political Science 2060.01**  
**Introduction to Political Theory**  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Fall 2022**

Location: Himes 253  
MWF, 1:30 - 2:20  
Instructor: Lendon Little  
Stubbs 330  
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Office Hours: MWF 2:30 - 3:30 or by appointment

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the major works of political theory and to prepare them for upper-level courses in political theory. The theoretical purpose of studying political theory is both to understand political phenomena and to articulate standards of justice and excellence by which political life can be guided. This enterprise has a practical purpose as well: these selected works provide key insights into the individual and political worlds in which we all live. These authors raise questions, and in some cases provide answers, that provoke readers' insights into morality, citizenship, leadership, and virtue. By wrestling with these works, readers will build critical thinking skills that are necessary for every student and citizen. Xenophon and Aristotle influenced Machiavelli in different ways. Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Rousseau were powerful influences on the framers of the American Constitution and those who penned *The Federalist*. Thus, our task is both a theoretical and a practical one.

### **Inquiry and Analysis**

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of *Social/Behavioral Sciences* and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of *Inquiry and Analysis*.

### **Books required:**

Xenophon, *The Education of Cyrus*, trans. Ambler [ISBN 9780801487507]  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Bartlett and Collins [ISBN 9780226026756]  
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Mansfield [ISBN 9780226500447]  
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Curley [ISBN 9780872201774]  
Rousseau, *The Major Political Writings*, trans. Scott [ISBN 9780226151311]  
Hamilton, Jay, and Madison, *The Federalist*, ed. Carey and McClellan [ISBN 9780865972896]

I know that these can be found in the public domain. However, you will find that the public domain translations are unreadable and stylistically different from what we will be using. The ones I recommend are the best at retaining the original wording and style. For example, Mansfield does not try to hide or "fix" Machiavelli's intentional long-windedness. Curley has made Hobbes' 1651 English readable. Carey and McClellan's introduction to *The Federalist* is essential. You should be able to search the ISBN to find these editions. Some of these are available through the LSU Library, and **always bring the assigned texts to class.**

## Course Requirements:

Attendance: 15%

Quizzes 15%

Midterm 20% (due October 15<sup>th</sup>)

Essay 20% (due November 19<sup>th</sup>)

Final Exam 30% (on December 10<sup>th</sup>)

- Attendance: Attendance is mandatory after the final drop date has passed. Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Please email me as soon as possible if you intend on missing class and have an excuse. [Here](#) are examples of excused absences.
- Quizzes: Unannounced quizzes will be given to make sure students keep up with assigned readings. They will require a short answer and will be hand-written, so please come prepared. Students cannot make up quizzes that are missed due to unexcused absences.
- Midterm: The midterm will consist of three questions, but students will only answer two. Each answer should be about three pages double-spaced in length. This is a take-home assignment and will be turned in through **Moodle**.
- Essay: The essay is intended for students to compare two of the assigned works. Students are encouraged to write about topics that interest them, provided they have been discussed in the assigned readings. Students must be clear about which texts they are writing about, the authors' positions, and the agreements and differences between them. The essay should be 5-7 double-spaced pages in length.
- Final Exam: The final exam will follow a similar format to that of the midterm. The final will consist of four questions, but students will only answer three. Each answer should be about three pages double-spaced in length. This is a take-home assignment and will be turned in through **Moodle**.

## Grading Scale

Final course letter grades are assigned as follows based on a student's final numerical average:

97-100 = **A+**

93-96 = **A**

90-92 = **A-**

87-89 = **B+**

83-86 = **B**

80-82 = **B-**

77-79 = **C+**

73-76 = **C**

70-72 = **C-**

67-69 = **D+**

63-66 = **D**

60-62 = **D-**

<60 = **F**

## Deadlines

Deadlines must be taken very seriously to hold every student accountable to the same academic standard. If you have a problem meeting a deadline, please contact me. I understand unforeseen problems will arise and I am willing to accommodate difficulties that you may encounter. Please provide documentation.

## Academic Honesty

Students are required to abide by the academic conduct policies outlined in the [LSU Code of Student Conduct](#). Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to cheating on exams, plagiarizing (from published sources or from fellow students), buying or selling assignments, altering grades, intentional deception, and collaborating with others without permission. Be very careful with the writing assignments. Use of another person's words without proper citation or copying from another person's work is considered plagiarism. I reserve the right to investigate when I suspect a violation of any of these policies. All violations of the university's academic conduct policies are turned over to the Dean of Students.

## Readings Schedule:

### Week 1

- Aug. 22: Introduction
- Aug. 24: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book I
- Aug. 26: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book II

### Week 2

- Aug. 29: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book III
- Aug. 31: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book IV
- Sep. 2: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book V

### Week 3

- Sep. 5: **Labor Day, No Class**
- Sep. 7: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book VI
- Sep. 9: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book VII

### Week 4

- Sep. 12: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book VIII
- Sep. 14: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I
- Sep. 16: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book II

### Week 5

- Sep. 19: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book III
- Sep. 21: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book IV
- Sep. 23: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book V

### Week 6

- Sep. 26: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book VI
- Sep. 28: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book VII Chapters 1-10 and Book X, Chapter 9
- Sep. 30: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, I-V (including Dedicatory Letter). **Midterm questions issued.**

### Week 7

- Oct. 3: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, VI-X
- Oct. 5: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, XI-XIV
- Oct. 7: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, XV-XIX

### Week 8

- Oct. 10: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, XX-XXVI
- Oct. 12: Mid-Semester Recap
- Oct. 14: **Fall Holiday, No Class**

**Midterm Due: Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

### Week 9

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Oct. 17:       | Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Hobbes' Introduction, Chapters I-VIII         |
| Oct. 19:       | Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters X-XII                                |
| Oct. 21:       | Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters XIII-XV                              |
| <b>Week 10</b> |  |
| Oct. 24:       | Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters XVII-XIX                             |
| Oct. 26:       | Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters XXI and XXX                          |
| Oct. 28:       | Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Science and Arts</i>                           |
| <b>Week 11</b> |  |
| Oct. 31:       | Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , Book I                                |
| Nov. 2:        | Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , Book II                               |
| Nov. 4:        | Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , Book III Chapters 1-8                 |
| <b>Week 12</b> |  |
| Nov. 7:        | Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , Book III Chapters 9-18                |
| Nov. 9:        | Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , Book IV                               |
| Nov. 11:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , Introduction (xxiii-xxxi, xlvi-lv), 1-2 |
| <b>Week 13</b> |  |
| Nov. 14:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , 6-8                                     |
| Nov. 16:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , 9-10                                    |
| Nov. 18:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , 37-40                                   |
| <b>Week 14</b> |  |
| Nov. 21:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , 69-71                                   |
| Nov. 23:       | <b>Thanksgiving, No Class</b>  |
| Nov. 25:       | <b>Thanksgiving, No Class</b>  |
| <b>Week 15</b> |  |
| Nov. 28:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , 72-75                                   |
| Nov. 30:       | Publius, <i>The Federalist</i> , 76-77                                   |
| Dec. 2:        | Review   |

**Final Exam: Due Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Final Exam Schedule: <https://www.lsu.edu/registrar/academics/fall-final-exams.php>**