

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 110: POLIT 110-55 (1490)
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

FALL 2021

TTh, 3:00pm -4:50 pm (Begins 9/14/21)

Room: CTL 245

INSTRUCTOR: Steve Hellerman

Tel: 909-389-3337

email: shellerman@craftonhills.edu

POLIT 110 is an introductory course on political theory, using primary texts to survey Western political thought, exploring issues such as the purpose of politics, the nature of justice and political authority, the social contract, natural rights, the responsibility of community and citizenship, the paradox of democracy, the morality of political ambition and power, the future of the bourgeois state, and the virtues, failings and challenges of political diversity. Exposes students to some classic pieces in the field with training in how to work with and critically consider theoretical and philosophical texts addressing politics. This course introduces students to the key concepts and significant texts that form the basis for political thought in the Western world, while examining the intersection of values and moral reasoning with political systems, socialization, orientation, and action.

This course applies to the associate's degree and transfers to CSU and UC.

Goals For The Course:

1. To provide an introductory overview to some of the main traditions in political theory, exposing students to some classic pieces in the field with training in how to work with and critically consider theoretical and philosophical texts addressing politics.
2. To help students understand the nature, purpose and meaning of politics, and to introduce students to some of the key concepts, issues and problems involved in the study of classical, modern and recent political theory, utilizing both normative and historical approaches.

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to: 1. Attain an in-depth understanding of some of the outstanding and important political theorists of the Western tradition by reading and discussing selections from their work and additional commentary. 2. Recognize and interpret the work of important political theorists in an historical context. 3. Compare and contrast key concepts, premises, and arguments presented by political theorists. 4. Comprehend and critically evaluate scholarly interpretations of political theorists and formulate conclusions regarding various interpretations of political theory. 5. Conceive and clarify ideas and opinions about politics by confronting and analyzing the issues raised by the political theorists that are studied.

TEXTBOOK, READINGS, ASSSIGNMENTS

IF YOU DON'T LIKE TO READ, YOU ARE IN THE WRONG CLASS!!!

FREE RENTAL OF THESE TEXTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CHC BOOKSTORE. HOWEVER: YOU CAN LIKELY BUY A GOOD USED COPY ONLINE FOR LESS THAN \$20, EVEN LESS THAN \$10!

Cahn, Steven M. Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts 2nd or 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015)

Tannenbaum, Donald G. Inventors of Ideas: An Introduction to Western Political Philosophy ***2nd or 3rd ed. (Boston: Cengage Learning)**

*******Students are also responsible for reading assignments available online, available electronically on the Crafton Hills College website, listed under (1) Departments; (2) Political Science (listed under Social Sciences) (3) the instructor's name (4) POLIT 110. Website:**

CraftonHills.edu/shellerman

or

http://www.craftonhills.edu/faculty_and_staff/personal_pages/shellerman

Alternatively, find the instructors name under the Employee Directory, click on it, then click Web Site. A google search of the instructors name should also get one there. If necessary, ask for assistance.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

There will be a total of **three assignments, each consisting of three précis (a short description, explanation, or examination derived from the readings), each précis no more than 2 pages in length (for a total of no more than six pages)**. Hence, each précis is worth 10 percent of the cumulative course grade. Appropriate points will be deducted from assignments handed in late.

Additionally, **each student will be asked to participate in a panel discussion of selected readings** (this is not necessarily a group project, the instructor will explain) **or present a discussion by themselves** that will account for the other ten percent of the cumulative course grade. Any student absent or not prepared to participate on the day of his/her scheduled discussion forfeits the 10 points.

Students may earn extra credit by making additional presentations to the class and/or leading additional discussions on readings during class time. Class participation may also be a factor in a student's course grade.

All Students are advised and encouraged to take advantage of tutoring and assistance offered at the **Learning Resource Center**.

It is also strongly advised that students form **STUDY GROUPS** with other members of the class to meet and/or talk by telephone and/or email to discuss and review the content of the course. **The instructor is quite happy to encourage and assist students seeking to form study groups.**

Do you need help with your application for transfer? The University Transfer Center offers step-by-step assistance. Please visit them in CCR-220 (above the financial aid office) or call them at 909-389-3399.
www.craftonhills.edu/transfercenter

ATTENDANCE REQUIRMENTS (AND DROPPING THE CLASS)

The instructor will not necessarily drop a student with any other grade than an “F” after the “drop date,” i.e., the last day to drop the class and receive a “W”. So if you stop attending class before the “drop date,” you might be dropped with an “F” (which will permanently appear on your transcripts) if you do not “formally withdraw” from the class by the “drop date.”

Students are responsible for material covered in all lectures, even if they are not in attendance. It is strongly advised that you arrange in advance to get the class notes and/or assignments from a fellow student if/when you miss a class.

DISABILITIES

Any student with a disability (e.g., a learning disability) requiring special consideration should notify the instructor as soon as possible (after class). Appropriate accommodations will be developed in consultation with the appropriate offices.

HONORS PROGRAM

There is no POLIT 110H. Talk to the instructor if you any ideas for making it so.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should review the college regulations concerning academic misconduct and dishonesty, which will be enforced in this class. In particular, plagiarism should be avoided at all costs. **Anyone who cheats on a quiz or exam, plagiarizes, or directly duplicates the work of another student or cuts and pastes directly off of a website (i.e., anyone who tries to pass off someone else’s work as his or her own) will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for appropriate action and penalties.** While students are encouraged to study and work together whenever possible, **EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO INDIVIDUALLY WRITE THEIR OWN PAPERS AND HAND IN THEIR OWN WORK.** It goes without saying that a take-home paper or essay exam answer based on plagiarism or directly duplicating that of another student will be given a grade of “F”, and such action will certainly affect the final course grade; and quite possibly your transcript (permanently!).

CIVILITY

There is often a great deal of disagreement over issues raised in class, which is natural and positive. However, while students should feel free to disagree with the instructor and/or other students, they should not feel free to be rude, crass or insulting when expressing their opinion, nor should they ever engage in *ad hominem* attacks. Students not capable of engaging in civil discourse will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the session.

REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN DISAGREE!

Don't be a schmuck! Don't be a P.I.T.A!

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

The instructor may meet with students **immediately after class on zoom, or by appointment, or during office hours: Tues. and Thurs, 12:30-2:00 pm.**

The instructor can be contacted by **email: shellerman@craftonhills.edu**

PLEASE: NEVER EVER simply assume that email has been received and/or read, or that email has been or not been sent! Follow up may be necessary in “The Land of Email.” (Follow up w/ a phone call, even!)

The instructor may be contacted in his office either in person or by phone: **909-389-3337. Please leave a message w/ a call-back tel. #.**

PLEASE: NEVER EVER simply assume that a voice message has been received and/or heard. Follow up may be necessary in the “The Land of Voice Mail.” (Follow up w/ an email, even!)

COURSE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to change, revise and/or update this syllabus at any time during the semester. Lectures and Assignment due dates MAY BE POSTPONED OR MOVED UP!

Also: Students should feel free to read any of the assigned readings – or relevant non-assigned readings – whenever they want.

Week One (9/14-16): Readings: Cahn, Introduction, Plato, Aristotle; Plato, “The Analogy of the Cave”; Plato, The Politics; Plato, Death of Socrates; Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”; Aristophanes, The Clouds; Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, and Antigone; Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War.

Week Two (9/21-23): Readings: Cahn, Introduction, Plato, Aristotle; Plato, “The Analogy of the Cave”; Plato, The Politics; Plato, Death of Socrates; Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”; Aristophanes, The Clouds; Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, and Antigone; Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War.

Week Three (9/28-30): Readings: Cahn, Introduction, Plato, Aristotle; Plato, “The Analogy of the Cave”; Plato, The Politics; Plato, Death of Socrates; Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”; Aristophanes, The Clouds; Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, and Antigone; Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War.

Week Four (10/5-7): Readings: Cahn, Introduction, Plato, Aristotle; Plato, “The Analogy of the Cave”; Plato, The Politics; Plato, Death of Socrates; Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”; Aristophanes, The Clouds; Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, and Antigone; Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War.

First Assignment Due

Week Five (10/12-14): Cahn: Machiavelli; Machiavelli, selected readings.

Week Six (10/19-21): Readings: Cahn: Machiavelli; Machiavelli, selected readings. Hobbes.

Week Seven (10/26-28): Readings: Cahn: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau.

Week Eight (11/2-4): Readings: Cahn: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau; Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”.

Week Nine (11/9-11): Cahn: Hume, Smith, Madison and Hamilton.

Second Assignment Due

Week Ten (11/16-18): Cahn: Marx and Engels; Marx, selected readings; Lenin, “What is to be Done?”

11/22-24: THANKSGIVING RECESS, NO CLASS ALL WEEK!!!!

Week Eleven (11/30-12/2): Cahn: Marx and Engels; Marx, selected readings; Lenin, “What is to be Done?”; Havel, “The Power of the Powerless”; Koestler; Nietzsche; Weber, selected readings; Michels, The Iron Law of Oligarchy; Nietzsche .

Week Twelve (12/7-9): Cahn: Marx and Engels; Marx, selected readings; Lenin, “What is to be Done?”; Havel, “The Power of the Powerless”; Koestler; Nietzsche; Weber, selected readings; Michels, The Iron Law of Oligarchy; Nietzsche .

Week Thirteen (12/14-16): Cahn: Rawls; Nietzsche; Ayn Rand; Garrett Hardin.

Third Assignment Due

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

GOOD KWANZA!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!