

Philosophy 3325 – Political Philosophy

Dr. Jacob M. Held

“But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections of human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary.” – James Madison

Spring 2018

CRN: 28901

Meeting Time: 12:15-1:30 TR

Room: Irby Hall 307

Office Hours: by appointment only

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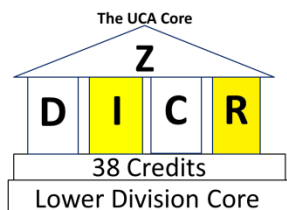
Required Texts: *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, 3rd edition, ed. Steven M. Cahn (PP)

Course Description: This course will focus on the history of major political theory from antiquity to the contemporary period. The material will be handled historically in three sections covering: Ancient/Medieval, Modern and American, and Contemporary theories.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course the student will be able to:

- 1) *Identify* major thinkers and canonical texts in the history of Western political thought.
- 2) *Summarize* major theories in the history of Western political thought.
- 3) *Explain* major concepts in the history of Western political thought.
- 4) *Analyze* major theories in Western political thought and be able to break them down into their component parts – assumptions and foundational concepts - and put them in their proper context.
- 5) *Assess* the relative merit of major theories, traditions, works, and thinkers and be able to articulate strengths and weaknesses of these theories, traditions, works, and thinkers.

Upper Division (UD) Core: UD Critical Inquiry & Responsible Living



This course is designated [I & R] which means it satisfies your **Critical Inquiry** and **Responsible Living** components of the Upper Division Core. Critical Inquiry courses promote the ability to analyze new problems and situations to formulate informed opinions and conclusions. Responsible Living courses promote the ability to address real-world problems and find ethical solutions for individuals and society. For more information, go to <http://uca.edu/core>.

Grade Scale: Grades are determined against the standard grade scale, Above 90% of total possible points is an A, 80%-89.9% a B, 70%-79.9% a C, 60%-69.9% a D, below 60% is an F.

Grading:	Essays (3 at 40 pts. each)	120 pts	= 60%
	Assessment assignment	40 pts	= 20%
	Weekly questions	40 pts	= 20%

Point Scale:	Total possible points	200	
		200-180	A
		179-160	B
		159-140	C
		139-120	D
		119 or below	F

Course Work:

Short Essays: Throughout the semester you will write three (3) essays. For each essay you will be given a prompt/topic, basic framework, as well as required and recommended sources. You will write a 5-7 page paper based on the provided parameters. Each essay will be assessed based on the philosophy essay assessment rubric. Please familiarize yourself with this rubric.

Essay Assessment: For the first short essay you will be asked to provide an assessment of a fellow student’s essay. You will be provided with a fellow classmate’s essay with all identifying marks removed. You will be asked to apply the philosophy essay assessment rubric I will be using for this course to that essay. Once you are finished applying the assessment rubric you will schedule a meeting with me where we will go over your assessment of the essay. You will be graded on how diligent and detailed your assessment is of the essay’s content and structure.

Weekly Questions: Every week on Monday, a study question will be posted to Blackboard. You will have until Friday afternoon at 4:30 to respond to the question. Responses must be substantive and address all main points of the question and demonstrate knowledge and engagement of the weekly readings. You will be scored on completion. 12 complete responses over the course of the semester will earn full credit for this portion of your grade. For each response less than 12 you will be penalized 5 points against your weekly questions grade.

No Late Work: If you fail to hand in an assignment because of an unexcused absence, you will not be allowed to make it up. You will only be allowed to make up work resulting from excused absences. All late work resulting from unexcused absences will be considered incomplete and receive a 0.

Excused absence policy: I will only excuse an absence or tardiness if it results from a medical emergency, debilitating illness, family emergency, or participation in university sanctioned events. I may require documentation or alternative form of verification. It is up to the student to get an absence excused. I will presume all absences to be inexcusable until proof to the contrary is presented. Determination of “excused” is at my discretion.

School Policies: The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Disability Resource Center, 450-3613.

Please also familiarize yourself with all policies in the student handbook, including sexual harassment and academic policies.

Building Emergency Plan: An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents

for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

Title IX Disclosure: If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>.

*Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.

Academic Dishonesty: The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s academic integrity policy, approved by the board of trustees as board policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the student handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of the university policy.

Although working in groups on papers is not prohibited, the work a student turns in must be the product of that student and demonstrate the unique contribution of that student. Passing off another’s work as your own is a form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism will result in an immediate failing grade for the course. For general guidelines on plagiarism see: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>.

**Political Philosophy
Spring 2018**

Tuesday	Thursday
January 9	January 11 Syllabus and Introduction Assign: PP, pp. 1-4, 22-30
January 16 Plato, Crito Assign: PP, pp. 31-66	January 18 Plato, Republic Assign: PP, pp. 110-136
January 23 Essay 1 Assigned (Due 02/15) Plato, Republic Assign: PP, pp. 137-141, 165-197	January 25 Aristotle, Politics Assign: PP, pp. 197-222
January 30 Aristotle, Politics Assign: PP, pp. 223-238	February 01 Cicero Assign: PP, pp. 239-251
February 06 St. Augustine, City of God Assign: PP, pp. 252-267	February 08 St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae Assign: PP, pp. 309-343
February 13 Hobbes, Leviathan Assign: PP, pp. 360-378	February 15 Essay 1 Due Locke, Second Treatise of Government Assign: PP, pp. 378-393
February 20 Locke, Second treatise of Government Assign: PP, pp. 393-400	February 22 Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration Assign: PP, pp. 418-437
February 27 Assessment Assigned (Due 03/13) Essay 2 Assigned (Due 03/29) Rousseau, Origin of Inequality Assign: PP, pp. 437-465	March 01 Rousseau, Social Contract Assign: PP, pp. 488-506
March 06 Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations Assign: PP, pp. 507-521, 534-545	March 08 Kant, Groundwork and Perpetual Peace Assign: PP, pp. 546-550, 555-567, 573-576, 588-599
March 13 Assessment Due Hamilton and Madison, Federalist Papers Assign: PP, pp. 620- 643	March 15 Jeremy Bentham, Principles of Legislation Assign: PP, pp. 696-714

March 20 Spring Break	March 22 Spring Break
March 27 Marx, Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts and the German Ideology Assign: PP, pp. 714-726	March 29 Essay 2 Due Marx, Communist Manifesto Assign: PP, pp. 738-747
April 03 J. S. Mill, Utilitarianism Assign: PP, pp. 747-795	April 05 J. S. Mill, On Liberty Assign: PP, pp. 808-824
April 10 Essay 3 Assigned (Due TBA) J. S. Mill, On the Subjection of Women Assign: PP, pp. 911-939	April 12 John Rawls, Theory of Justice/Political Liberalism Assign: PP, pp. 953-969
April 17 Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia Assign: PP, pp. 1006-1023	April 19 Virginia Held, A Feminist View Assign: PP, pp. 1024-1053
April 24 Martha Nussbaum, A Feminist Critique of Liberalism Assign: PP, pp. 1054-1072	April 26 Iris Marion Young on Oppression
May 1 Finals	May 3 Finals
May 7 Final Grades Due	May 9