

**Liberty, Justice, and the Common Good**  
**Political Science 2800**  
**Ellis Library, Gallery 88**  
**T-TH, 2-3:15pm**

**Instructor:** Dr. Rodolfo Hernandez

**Course Description:**

Selected great political theorists and their contemporary relevance. How to think critically about political ideas and ideologies.

**Course Structure:**

This course is currently a traditional course with content being delivered completely in person. All exams will be administered via Canvas. All papers will be submitted in Canvas.

Any student needing accommodations because they are unable to attend class will be able to Zoom in on the class synchronously. Students on Zoom can use the raise hand feature if they wish to talk or post a comment in the chat. These comments would be shared with in-person class. If students are called on to answer a question in class, students on Zoom would be included.

In the event of in-person classes being cancelled the class would be separated into two groups of about 25 students each to have one discussion session of class material on Tuesday or Thursday at regularly scheduled class time. The other class session would be a recorded lecture. Students would continue to take exams and submit papers on canvas.

**Required Texts:**

Gorgias and Rhetoric, Plato and Aristotle (Sachs, Translator) Hackett. ISBN: 9781585102990  
The Souls of Black Folk, Dubois, W.E.B. Dover. 9780486280417  
Treatise on Law Aquinas (Regan, Translator) Hackett. ISBN: 9780872205482  
The Prince, Machiavelli. Dover. ISBN: 9780486272740  
Second Treatise on Government. Locke. Hackett. ISBN: 9780915144860  
On the Social Contract. Rousseau. Hackett. ISBN: 9781624667855  
The Road to Serfdom. Hayek. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226320557  
Just and Unjust Wars. Walzer. Basic Books. ISBN: 9780465052714

Other texts will be posted online.

**Assessment:** Two papers (3 page minimum double spaced) will be assigned in this class. Papers will be analytic essays focused on the section of the course being covered; no research other than from assigned course materials will be required but using additional resources could improve an essay. Additionally, there will be 5 discussion board paragraphs required from students during the semester. Students who write the minimum of a four-sentence paragraph addressing the question will receive full credit for the discussion board paragraphs. There will be a Midterm (on

first half of class material) and Final Exam (on second half of class material) on canvas which will be multiple choice and true/false.

Your semester grade will be calculated as follows:

Paper 1- 30%

Discussion Boards -10%

Paper 2 -30%

Mid Term -15%

Final Exam -15%

Final course grades will be calculated as follows:

Here is the grading scheme that will be used to convert points earned to letter grades. Please note that there will be no “rounding-up” of grades; there are no exceptions to this policy. Rounding-up quickly becomes an arbitrary and unfair process. There will also be no extra credit opportunities beyond those offered in class to everyone.

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A	100% to 94.0%	C	<77.0 to 74.0%
A-	<94.0% to 90.0%	C-	<74.0% to 70.0%
B+	<90.0% to 87.0%	D	<67.0% to 64.0%
B	<87.0% to 84.0%	D-	<64.0% to 61.0%
B-	<84.0% to 80.0%	F	<61.0%
C+	<80.0% to 77.0%		

## **LATE PAPER POLICY**

Late papers will be reduced 5 points a day and will not be accepted after the fifth day. Students with any sort of medical issue should contact the instructor about the possibility of a paper extension.

## **Tentative Course Calendar**

- Tuesday, August 25, 2020 Course Overview and Syllabus
- Thursday, August 27, 2020 Leo Strauss “What is Liberal Education?”  
Martin Diamond “On the Study of Politics in a Liberal Education”
- Tuesday, September 1, 2020 Cicero’s Pro Archia, W.E. B. Dubois, Of the Meaning of Progress
- Thursday, September 3, 2020 Logic: Aristotle, Selection of Categories, Posterior Analytics, and  
Nicomachean Ethics Book 1
- Tuesday, September 8, 2020 Rhetoric: Orwell, “Politics and the English Language” and Gorgias,  
Encomium of Helen
- Thursday, September 10, 2020 Plato’s Gorgias
- Tuesday, September 15, 2020 Plato’s Gorgias
- Thursday, September 17, 2020 Selections from Aristotle’s Rhetoric, 1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln- Douglas  
Debate
- Tuesday, September 22, 2020 Grammar: Selection from Donatus/Priscian and O’Connor v.  
Oakhurst Dairy No. 16-1901 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2017)  
  
Christian Pizan, The Book of Ladies  
  
Aristotle, Book 10 of Nicomachean Ethics
- Thursday, September 24, 2020 Booker T. Washington, Industrial Training  
W.E.B. Dubois The Talented Tenth, Zena Hitz- Why  
rebranding Higher Education as Job Training is an offense  
to Humanism
- Tuesday, September 29, 2020 Aquinas Treatise on Law
- Thursday, October 1, 2020 Aquinas Treatise on Law, MLK Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 Machiavelli The Prince

Thursday, October 8, 2020 Machiavelli The Prince, **PAPER ONE DUE ON CANVAS**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 Hobbes, Selection

Thursday, October 15, 2020 Hobbes Selection, **MID TERM EXAM ON CANVAS (STRAUSS TO MLK)**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 Locke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Treatise on Government

Thursday, October 22, 2020 Locke 2<sup>nd</sup> Treatise on Government

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 Rousseau, Social Contract

Thursday, October 29, 2020 Rousseau, Social Contract

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 Adam Smith selection  
W.E.B. Dubois, The Wings of Atalanta

Thursday, November 5, 2020 Karl Marx Selection

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 John Dewey Selection

Thursday, November 12, 2020 Hayek, The Road to Serfdom

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 Hayek, The Road to Serfdom

Thursday, November 19, 2020 FDR, "Commonwealth Club Address" (1932)  
FDR, "State of the Union Address" (1944)  
Reagan, "First Inaugural Address" (1981)  
Reagan, "State of the Union Address" (1984)

Tuesday, November 24, 2020 HAPPY THANKSGIVING (No Class)

Thursday, November 26, 2020 HAPPY THANKSGIVING (No Class)

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars

Thursday, December 3, 2020 Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars  
Henry Kissinger, "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction"  
Kenneth Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction"

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars  
Anscombe, Mr. Truman's Degree

Thursday, December 10, 2020

CS Lewis, "Learning in War time" and "Men without Chests"  
**PAPER #2 is DUE ON CANVAS**

**FINAL EXAM ON CANVAS (Machiavelli to Lewis) on December 15, 2020**  
**Discussion board assignments will be announced throughout course.**

*These readings are tentative and subject to change as the course develops.*

## **COURSE POLICIES & FURTHER RESOURCES**

### **Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19 in Classrooms and Labs**

MU cares about the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff. To provide safe, high-quality education amid COVID-19, we will follow several specific campus policies in accordance with the advice of the Center for Disease Control and Boone County health authorities. This statement will be updated as information changes.

- **If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms**, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend in-person classes and contact your health care provider and/or student health immediately. COVID symptoms include: fever greater than 100.4 or chills; cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; unexplained muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea.
  - We will all wear **face coverings while in the classroom**, unless you have a documented exemption due to a disability or medical condition.
  - We will maintain a **6-foot distance from each other at all times** (except in specific lab/studio courses with other specific guidelines for social distancing).
  - We will enter the classroom and **fill the room starting at the front, filing all the way across a row**. When class ends, we will exit the row nearest to the door first; the instructor or TA will give the signal for the next row to exit, in the same manner.
  - In any small section or lab class that requires them, **additional measures will be listed in the syllabus and be mandatory for class participation**.
  - Online office hours will be available for all students.
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- This course may be recorded for the sole purpose of sharing the recording with students who can't attend class. The instructor will take care not to disclose personally identifiable information from the student education records during the recorded lesson.

Compliance with these guidelines is required for all; anyone who fails to comply will be subject to the accountability process, as stated in the University's Collected Rules and Regulations, Chapter 200 Student Code of Conduct.

If an instructor has concerns about how a student is following COVID-19 policies and protocols, please report those concerns to the Office of the Dean of Students. You can fill out a COVID Safety Measures Reporting Form here: [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMissouriSystem&layout\\_id=38](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMissouriSystem&layout_id=38)

By taking the above measures, we are supporting your health and that of the whole Mizzou community. Thank you in advance for joining me and your peers in adhering to these safety measures.

### **Mental Health**

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00–5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

[Visit our website](#) to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. For more information, please see the [Office of Academic Integrity's "For Students" page](#).

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course or if you have emergency medical information you feel you need to share with an instructor, please let us know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the [MU Disability Center](#) (S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696) and then notify us of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, see the University's ["Accessibility and ADA" webpage](#).

### **Intellectual Pluralism**

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](#); the [MU Equity Office](#), or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

### **Executive Order #38, Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion, and Privacy**

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of [section 200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.