

POLITICAL THOUGHT
Bluefield State College
POSC 300—FALL 2020
CRN: 12048
Sections: 001
WEBENHANCED

Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.
Class M: 4:00-6:50 p.m. (16:00-18:50)
Office Hours: TBA
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Political Thought (3-0-3). A survey of ancient, medieval, modern, and post-modern political thought. Special attention given to contemporary political ideologies, including fundamentalism, feminism, environmentalism, communitarianism, and multiculturalism. PR: POSC 200, POSC 210, or ENGL 201. Fall

Grading Policy: 20% for Attendance; 20% for participation in the Soliya Connect Program; 20% for the Midterm Exam; 20% for the Research Paper; and 20% for the Final Exam. Guidelines sheets will be distributed outlining the requirements for the Research Paper and for participation in the Soliya Connect Program.

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: “A” = Excellent; “B” = Good; “C” = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required in major courses); “D” = Poor (passing, except in major courses); “F” = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included” in the recalculation of the grade point average); and “I” = Incomplete.

Soliya Connect Program: Students are required to participate in the Soliya Connect Program, which is an eight-week virtual international cross-cultural exchange program, for 20% of their total course grade. Also, students are eligible to sign up for INST 492 “Soliya Connect Program” for one additional hour of course credit for their participation. Information on the program is posted on the course Moodle page.

Netiquette: When sending me an email, **ALWAYS** put the course number (e.g. POSC 200) in the Subject Heading line on your message, as I teach many courses and have many students; consequently, with no reference to which course you are referring to, it is difficult to look it up.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]

Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]

Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]

Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]

Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.

PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.

PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.

PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.

PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.

PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 300, students should:

CLO1: be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;

CLO2: be able to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;

CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;

CLO4: be familiar with arguments, both pro and con, regarding the nature of the “good life”;

CLO5: comprehend the ethical considerations of everyday life and the questions of political rule in modern society;

CLO6: be aware of the various conceptions regarding the state of nature, the basis for a social contract, and conceptions of private versus public property;

CLO7: be able to appreciate the value of tolerating alternative beliefs;

CLO8: understand the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;

CLO9: be able to understand the various conceptions of the purposes of government, the proper ordering of political relationships, the nature of class struggle, the basics of political economy, the contradictions between liberty and order, and the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society;

CLO10: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to political philosophy.

Mission Statement: The mission of Bluefield State College is to provide students an affordable, accessible opportunity for public higher education. An historically black institution, Bluefield State College prepares students for diverse professions, graduate study, informed citizenship, community involvement, and public service in an ever-changing global society. The College demonstrates its commitment to the student’s intellectual, personal, ethical, and cultural development by providing a dedicated faculty and staff, quality educational programs, and strong student support services in a nurturing environment.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught in the classroom along with exams posted online on the course Moodle page. Individual work is required, particularly completing assigned readings prior to class discussions of assigned subjects, as well as such as submitting a research paper, and completing online chapter quizzes, including the midterm and final exam.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, both in class and by utilizing the tools provided by the course Moodle page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide. NOTE that whenever you email me: 1) use your BSC email, as I will not respond to non-BSC email; and 2) ALWAYS put your course number in your email Subject Heading.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a commitment to purchase the required texts, keep up with the chapter readings, attend your weekly Soliya discussion sessions, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and complete the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://catalog.bluefieldstate.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=130&hl=Attendance+policy&returnto=search>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future.

Attendance Policy*: Attendance in class is mandatory. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day of class; failure to sign the attendance sheet—even if in attendance—will be counted as an absence. “When the number of clock hours of willful absences exceeds the number of semester hours of credit, the instructor will notify the Registrar that the student has exceeded the permissible number of absences and should be withdrawn from class.” Students with Excused Absences must submit to me a copy of the Provost's Excused Absences email which contains your name for the particular day(s) in question in order to get credit for the day(s) of your absence. “It is the responsibility of the student to provide a proper explanation to the instructor for institutional or unavoidable absences. Failure to do so immediately upon return to class will automatically make the absence willful. The student should provide supporting documents for institutional and unavoidable absences. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student and at the acceptance of the instructor.” (*Bluefield State College Academic Catalog 2019-2020*, under Registrar's Office). As well, you are expected to follow the syllabus and accordingly be prepared for each day's class. This means that you must read the pre-assigned readings before class so that you will be prepared to discuss and debate in class the subject matter scheduled for that day and answer questions related to the issues being covered. Attendance in class will count for 20% of your total course grade.

* Absence from class may be made up by preparing a **two-page, typed** (i.e. using maximum 12 point font size and maximum double-spaced text with one-inch margin on all sides), **summary** on the missed material scheduled to be covered the day(s) of your absence. The summary must be in your own words and must **not** be copied material from the text(s), the internet, or any other source(s). **All summaries must be turned in to me by the last day of classes if you want credit for your absences.**

COVID-19 Absences: If you have a documented excuse that you are unable to attend the in-class sessions due to illness or other temporary or emergency situation (e.g., self-quarantining, travel restrictions), you are still expected to complete all assignments by the deadlines. The school's policy on absences (excused and unexcused) is still in effect unless superseded by any exigency guidelines such as those for COVID-19 containment. If you are physically unable to complete the course requirements, you may receive an Incomplete grade for the semester until all work can be safely completed. Note that all Incompletes must be accompanied by medical or other official documentation. You will also have the option to withdraw from the course. Your instructor will work with you as best they can to accommodate individual circumstances while maintaining the course objectives and curriculum requirements. Individual cases will be decided by your instructor with the guidance of the Chair of the Department, the Dean, and in the cases of international students, the Director of International Initiatives.

Mandatory Name Assignment: All students should first complete the Mandatory Name Assignment by the end of the first week of class. Read the instructions below for the first assignment which requires you

to send me your name in Microsoft Word format as an attachment. Yes, your name must be in a file sent as an attachment, so do NOT send me your name in an email message and think that you have completed this assignment. Send the attachment to my BSC email address, i.e. ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu. Once I receive it, you will have a “completed” noted on your grade sheet on the course Moodle page under “Mandatory Name Assignment”. The reason for this exercise is that you need to know how to send a Microsoft Word attachment, because later in the course you will each have to upload and submit a copy of your research papers formatted in Microsoft Word to the Turnitin website as well as sending me a copy to my BSC email. Remember: use Microsoft Word and not Microsoft Works as an editor. Also note that the Research Paper Guidelines have been updated and will tell you all you need to know to complete the Research Paper.

Class Discussion Policy: Anytime the class reverts to a fully online course, each of you will receive each Chapter Class Discussion Question in your email for the week(s) we are unable to meet in class. At the bottom of the chapter question, there is a hyperlink “Reply” button. Simply click this “Reply” button and submit your answer to the chapter question. [Alternatively, click on the “Class Discussion Forum” icon on the course Moodle page and then click on the Chapter Class Discussion Question you wish to answer; go to the bottom of the question and click on the hyperlink “Reply” button and submit your answer.] **Each student must make at least one entry per each Chapter Class Discussion question that is posted online.** Make sure you **simply hit the reply button on the Discussion Question which is posted to submit your answer**, so that the Subject Heading is the same as the Discussion Question, in order to get credit for that Chapter’s Discussion Question. Note that each student MUST provide their own answer to each question. **DO NOT SUBMIT ATTACHED ANSWERS.** YOU MUST TYPE YOUR REPLY IN THE DISCUSSION SECTION SO THAT ALL CAN READ IT WITHOUT OPENING UP AN ATTACHMENT. **Copying from any other student’s answer or simply repeating what other students have written constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with harshly.** Also, you will not be able to view other students’ responses until you have submitted one of your own first. Note that, like the quizzes, you must complete all chapter discussion questions by the **Last Day of Classes by 11:55 p.m.** in order to receive 12.5% credit (i.e. half of 25% for the Quizzes and 12.5% for the Discussion Questions).

Cell Phone Policy: TURN OFF all cell phones during class or place on silent vibrate. If you must answer a phone call, then quietly leave the room to take your call. DO NOT play, utilize, or otherwise interact with your cell phone or any other electronic device during class. If caught so doing, you will be expelled from that class session.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a change in schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost), the Dean and your advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

ADA Accommodation: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Student Support Services at 304-327-4097 in Basic Science 113 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Accessibility Statement: Bluefield State College is committed to providing students, faculty and staff with access to its facilities and the technology and information they need to succeed in and out of the classroom, and that these resources are accessible in accordance with applicable law. This page contains resources for those who require accessible technology or who have questions about accessibility at the university.

Accommodation Requests: If you encounter something that is not accessible, please use the following contact information for submitting requests:

For Students: Students who need accommodations should contact Carolyn Kirby, ADA Services Coordinator at ckirby@bluefieldstate.edu or call (304) 327-4098.

Assistive Technology: Students needing assistive technology, should contact Carolyn Kirby, ADA coordinator at ckirby@bluefieldstate.edu or (304) 327-4098.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER – Basic Science 110

Student Support Services: Basic Science 110, phone: (304) 327-4095.

Tutoring is provided in almost every class offered at BSC. Not only can we help you if you are having problems in a class, but we can also work with you if you just need a little extra help to make that "A" or "B". Our peer tutors also serve as mentors to participants and assist them in the "ins and outs" of college life and refers students to appropriate campus resources when necessary.

Blue Stars: Basic Science 111, phone (304) 327-4228.

The Blue Stars Center provides tutoring services for students who do not qualify for SSS and also for students who are struggling academically.

Both programs provide study skills workshops to assist students in gaining knowledge and skills to become better students.

All students will be screened in BS 113 to determine which program will best suit their needs.

Tutor.com: This fall we will be introducing a new online tutoring platform, Tutor.com. This platform will be available 24/7 and will cover a majority of subjects offered at BSC.

Services for Disabled Students: Based on documentation and recommendation of services from physicians and therapists, the following services can be provided to students with disabilities:

- extended test time
- proctored tests
- adaptive software
- note-takers
- sign-language interpreters
- and more (depending on the recommendation of therapist and/or physician).

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **Smarthinking free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

Required Text:

Cahn, Steven M. 2015. *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*. (Third Edition) New York, NY & Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. [ISBN 9780190201081], 1152 pages.

*****This class is web-enhanced and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC Moodle website*****

August 13 [Thursday] [Week One]: Classes begin for Fall 2020 Semester

Mandatory Name Assignment: Log on to the course webpage and familiarize yourself with the course content, icons, syllabus, Moodle links, etc. Each student **must** send me an attachment to my **BSC email at ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu** a document **spelling out your complete name**. This document **MUST** be

composed in Microsoft Word and **SENT AS AN ATTACHMENT**. As your research paper at the end of the semester **must be composed in Microsoft Word** and sent as an attachment, you must master this task at the beginning of the semester. Remember to send your Mandatory Name Assignment as a Microsoft WORD file and NOT a Microsoft WORKS file.

August 17 [Monday] [Week Two]: Introduction to Political Thought

Main Themes: We exist? Why? Where are we? Who is “we”? What should we do?

Explain Syllabus: Go over class requirements, required book, Soliya Connect Program guidelines, research paper guidelines, midterm and final exam dates.

Readings: Readings: Cahn text, Richard Kraut “Plato, Introduction”, Plato “Defence of Socrates”

August 24 [Monday] [Week Three]: How Shall We Live?

Readings: Readings: Cahn text, Richard Kraut “Plato, Introduction”, Plato “Defence of Socrates”

August 31 [Monday] [Week Four]: Justice & Injustice Confronting the Laws (or the State of Athens)

Readings: Cahn text, Plato “Crito”

Sept. 7 [Monday] [Week Five]: Labor Day Holiday — College closed (No Classes)

Sept. 7 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration begins

Sept. 14 [Monday] [Week Six]: A Word About Utopian Societies or Lost Civilizations: Atlantis?

Readings: Cahn text, Plato “The Timaeus” and “The Critias”: listen to Audiobooks of both via links on Selected Readings on course Moodle page

Sept. 21 [Monday] [Week Seven]: Setting Opposing Arguments Against One Another & All Human Activities Aim at Some Good & Moral Virtue, Like the Arts, Is Acquired by Repetition of the Corresponding Acts

Readings: Cahn text, Richard Kraut “Introduction,” Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics: Books I & II”

Sept. 21 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration deadline

Sept. 28 [Monday] [Week Eight]: Assertion of a Divine Plan & The City of God & The Earthly City

Readings: Cahn text, Paul J. Weithman “Introduction,” Augustine, “The City of God: Book XIX”

Assignment: Catch up with your readings; Study for the Midterm Exam

Sept. 28-Oct. 4 [Week Nine]: Midterm Exam (online) [Click on Quizzes and then on “Midterm Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on October 4, 2020.]

Oct. 5 [Monday]: Mid-semester grades due to Registrar electronically

Oct. 5 [Monday] [Week Ten]: Devil vs. God, Good vs. Evil, Dualism, Manichean Dichotomy

Readings: Cahn text, Paul J. Weithman “Introduction,” Thomas Aquinas, “Summa Theologiae: Question 90, Question 91, & Question 94”

Oct. 12 [Monday] [Week Eleven]: Advice for Would-Be Princes & The Fate of Armed vs. Unarmed Prophets & Defending the State: Citizen Troops or Mercenaries?

Readings: Cahn text, Steven B. Smith “Introduction,” Niccolo Machiavelli, “The Prince: Chs. V – IX, XII, XV – XVIII

Oct. 12 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program launch – first day of discussion groups

Oct. 19 [Monday] [Week Twelve]: The State of Nature & The Nature of the State

Readings: Cahn text, Jean Hampton, “Introduction,” Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan”

Oct. 26 [Monday] [Week Thirteen]: Man (& Woman) Is Born Free & But Everywhere He (& She) Is In Chains

Readings: Cahn text, Joshua Cohen, “Introduction,” Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Of the Social Contract: Books I & II”

Nov. 2 [Monday] [Week Fourteen]: The Real is Rational & The Rational is Real

Readings: Cahn text, Steven B. Smith, “Introduction,” G.W.F. Hegel “Philosophy of Right: Preface, Second Part” & “Third Part”

Nov. 6 [Friday]: Last Day to Drop a class and receive a grade of “W”

Nov. 8 [Sunday]: **Research Papers Due** (Research Papers must be submitted today)

Assignment: Research Papers Due today. Hand in a hard copy of your Research Papers to me in class and upload an electronic copy to Turnitin (follow submission instructions on course Moodle page).

Nov. 9 [Monday] [Week Fifteen]: The History of All Hitherto Existing Society is the History of Class Struggles & What the Bourgeoisie Therefore Produces, Above All, Are Its Own Grave-Diggers

Readings: Cahn text, Richard Miller, “Introduction,” Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”

Nov. 16 [Monday] [Week Sixteen]: The Proletarians Have Nothing to Lose but Their Chains & At the Entrance to Science, as at the Entrance to Hell, the Demand Must be Made: *Qui si convien lasciare ogni sospetto, Ogni vilita convien che qui sia morta*

Readings: Cahn text, Karl Marx, “A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy”

Nov. 18 [Wednesday]: **Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.**

Nov. 19-30: Final Exam [Click on Quizzes and then on “Final Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on November 30, 2020.]

Dec. 2 [Wednesday]: Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.