

POLITICAL THOUGHT
Bluefield State College
POSC 300—SPRING 2014
CRN: 20837
Section: 001
WEBBD

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A survey of ancient, medieval, modern, and post-modern political thought. Special attention given to contemporary political ideologies, including fundamentalism, feminism, environmentalism, and communitarianism. PR: POSC 200 or ENGL 201.

Grading Policy: 25% for Attendance & Participation*; 25% for the Midterm Exam; 25% for the Research Paper; and 25% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be posted outlining the requirements for your Research Paper.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This online distance learning 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**, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and take the **Chapter Quizzes** and submit answers to the **Class Discussion Questions** as they arise, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

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.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 300, students should be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts; to articulate arguments and examine their flaws; be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning; be familiar with arguments, both pro and con, regarding the nature of the "good life", ethical considerations for everyday life, questions of political rule in modern society, the state of nature and the basis for a social contract, private property, the value of tolerating alternative beliefs, the nature of labor, money, and commodities, the purposes of government, proper ordering of political relationships, class struggle, the basics of political economy, resolving the contradiction between liberty and order, and the equality of the sexes.

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 Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of grading and checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin.

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, the Dean and the 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.

Disability Services Statement: BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **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 Texts:

Cahn, Steven M.. 2011. *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*. (Second Edition) New York, NY & Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. [ISBN 978-0-19-539661-4]

Mandatory LiveText Assessment Statement:

"An active LiveText account is a required resource for this course because at least one assignment *must* be submitted electronically using this online platform. LiveText is used by Bluefield State to demonstrate the quality of our academic programs, and to improve teaching and learning. As a student, you have the option to use your account for secure online storage of your academic work, and to create digital documents such as electronic portfolios or reflective journals, which can be shared with prospective employers or other audiences.

If you do not already have a LiveText account, one will be emailed to your Bluefield State email account. You will be expected to activate the account immediately. LiveText will be a required resource in many different courses throughout your program, and you can use the same account for any course that requires it for a full five years, so **you only need one account**. If you already have an active LiveText account, you do not need another one. After five years you can extend your membership if you continue to need it for additional coursework or would like to maintain it for your personal use."

— Tracey Anderson, Ed.D., BSC Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Jan. 20 [Monday]: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (College Closed)

January 21 [Tuesday]: Classes begin for Spring 2014 Semester

Jan. 21-24: Introduction to Political Thought: How Shall We Live?

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 1 Class Discussion Topic

Jan. 27-31: Justice & Injustice

Readings: Cahn text, Plato "Crito"

Assignment: Answer the Week 2 Class Discussion Topic

Feb. 3-7: 'The Good' for Humanity & Moral Virtue

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 3 Class Discussion Topic

Feb. 10-14: Moral Virtue (cont'd.) & Intellectual Virtue & Pleasure, Happiness

Readings: Cahn text, Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics: Books V, VI & X"

Assignment: Answer the Week 4 Class Discussion Topic

Feb. 17-21: Assertion of a Divine Plan

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 5 Class Discussion Topic

Feb. 24-28: Devil vs. God or Evil vs. Good

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 6 Class Discussion Topic

Mar. 3-7: Advice for Would-Be Princes

Readings: Cahn text, Roger D. Masters “Introduction,” Niccolo Machiavelli, “The Prince: Chs. V – IX, XII, XV – XVIII

Assignment: Answer the Week 7 Class Discussion Topic

Mar. 10-14: MIDTERM EXAM [online]

Mar. 17: Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar

Mar. 17-21: Spring Break (No Classes)

Mar. 24-28: The State of Nature

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 10 Class Discussion Topic

Mar. 31-Apr. 4: A Labor Theory of Value

Readings: Cahn text, A. John Simmons, “Introduction,” John Locke, “Second Treatise of Government”

Assignment: Answer the Week 11 Class Discussion Topic

Apr. 7-11: Man Is Born Free

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 12 Class Discussion Topic

Apr. 14-18: Modern Political Economy: Labor, Money, & Commodities

Readings: Cahn text, Charles L. Griswold, Jr., “Introduction,” Adam Smith, “The Wealth of Nations: Book I”

Assignment: Answer the Week 13 Class Discussion Topic

Apr. 21-25: The Real is Rational

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 14 Class Discussion Topic

Apr. 26: [Research Papers Due] (Research Papers must be submitted today)

Assignment: Research Papers Due today. Upload an electronic copy of your Research Paper to Turnitin

Apr. 28-May 2: Nothing to Lose But Your Chains

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 15 Class Discussion Topic

May 5-9: Entering Relations Independent of Our Will

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

Assignment: Answer the Week 16 Class Discussion Topic

May 9: Conclusion. **(Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.**

Assignment: Complete all readings.

May 12-16: FINAL EXAM [online]

May 19: Final grades due to Registrar electronically