

POLITICAL THOUGHT
Bluefield State College
POSC 300—FALL 2019
CRN: 12048
Sections: 001
WEBENHANCED

Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.
Class TR: 2:00-3:15 p.m. (14:00-15:15)
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 & Participation; 20% for the In-Class Presentation; 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, In-Class Presentation, and the Soliya Connect Program.

Soliya Connect Program: Students are eligible to sign up for INST 492 “Soliya Connect Program” which is an eight-week international cross-cultural exchange program for one additional hour of course credit. Information on the program is posted on the course Moodle page.

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.

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 quizzes and 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.

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, complete your in-class presentation, attend your weekly Soliya discussion sessions, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and take the **Chapter Quizzes**, in addition to completing 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 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 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 hard copy of the campus publication *The Bulletin* announcing your allowed absence 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 and 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 2017-2018*, p. 50). 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 10% of your total 20% Attendance 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.**

Mandatory Name Assignment: All of you 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.

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 in so doing, you will be expelled from the 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.

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 Texts:

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 19 [Monday] [Week One]: Classes begin for Fall 2019 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 20 [Tuesday]: 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, class presentation, research paper, midterm and final exams. Hand out Soliya Connect Program information.

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

August 22 [Thursday]: How Shall We Live?

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

August 27 [Tuesday] [Week Two]: How Shall We Live?

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

August 29 [Thursday]: How Shall We Live?

Readings: Readings: Cahn text, Plato “Defence of Socrates”

Sept. 2 [Monday]: Labor Day Holiday — College closed (No Classes)

Sept. 3 [Tuesday] [Week Three]: Justice & Injustice

Readings: Cahn text, Plato “Crito”

Sept. 5 [Thursday]: Confronting the Laws (or the State of Athens)

Readings: Cahn text, Plato “Crito”

Sept. 9 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration begins

Sept. 10 [Tuesday] [Week Four]: 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. 12 [Thursday]: Setting Opposing Arguments Against One Another

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

Sept. 17 [Tuesday] [Week Five]: All Human Activities Aim at Some Good

Readings: Cahn text, Richard Kraut “Introduction,” Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics: Book I”

Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration Links Available

Sept. 19 [Thursday]: Moral Virtue, Like the Arts, Is Acquired by Repetition of the Corresponding Acts

Readings: Cahn text, Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics: Book II”

Sept. 23 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration deadline

Sept. 24 [Tuesday] [Week Six]: Assertion of a Divine Plan

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

Sept. 26 [Thursday]: The City of God & The Earthly City

Readings: Cahn text, Augustine, “The City of God: Book XIX”

Oct. 1 [Tuesday] [Week Seven]: 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. 3 [Thursday]: Advice for Would-Be Princes

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

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

Oct. 4- Oct. 12 [Week Eight]: 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 12, 2019.]

Oct. 14 [Monday]: Mid-semester grades due to Registrar electronically

Oct. 15 [Tuesday] [Week Nine]: The Fate of Armed vs. Unarmed Prophets

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

Oct. 17 [Thursday]: 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. 22 [Tuesday] [Week Ten]: The State of Nature

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

Oct. 24 [Thursday]: The Nature of the State

Readings: Cahn text, Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan”

Oct. 29 [Tuesday] [Week Eleven]: Man (& Woman) Is Born Free

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

Oct. 31 [Thursday]: But Everywhere He (& She) Is In Chains

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

Nov. 5 [Tuesday] [Week Twelve]: The Real is Rational

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

Nov. 7 [Thursday]: The Rational is Real

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

Nov. 8 [Friday]: Last Day to Drop a class and receive a grade of “W”

Nov. 12 [Tuesday] [Week Thirteen]: The History of All Hitherto Existing Society is the History of Class Struggles

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

Nov. 14 [Thursday]: What the Bourgeoisie Therefore Produces, Above All, Are Its Own Grave-Diggers

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

Nov. 19 [Tuesday] [Week Fourteen]: The Proletarians Have Nothing to Lose but Their Chains

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

Nov. 21 [Thursday]: At the Entrance to Science, as at the Entrance to Hell, the Demand Must be Made: *Qui si convien lasciare ogni sospetto, Ogni viltà convien che qui sia morta*

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

Assignment: In-Class Presentations Due today. This is the last day for in-class presentations. Make sure to complete your presentation by this date.

Nov. 25-29 [Week Fifteen]: Thanksgiving Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

Dec. 1 [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).

Dec. 3 [Tuesday] [Week Sixteen]: Entering Relations Independent of Our Will

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

Dec. 5 [Thursday]: The Changes in the Economic Foundation Lead Sooner or Later to the Transformation of the Whole Immense Superstructure & Conclusion

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

Dec. 6 [Friday]: Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

Dec. 7-14: 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 December 14, 2019.]

Dec. 17 [Tuesday]: Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.