I. Class Objectives

The purpose of this class is to introduce you to the study of politics and particularly to the perennial political and moral questions, which we confront in our personal lives and as citizens of a liberal democracy. By doing so, this course will give you a better understanding of the relation of politics to other major human endeavors and help you see both the nobility and limitations of a life dedicated to politics.

2. Readings:

- Sophocles, *Three Tragedies*
- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*
- Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates*
- Aristotle, *Politics*
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government and Letter on Toleration*
- J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*
- Henrik Ibsen, *Four Major Plays*
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2
- George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*
- Additional readings will be placed on Moodle.

3. Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: This is a discussion-based class. There will be little, if any, lecturing. Therefore, I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the session’s readings. In order to ensure that this happens, I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes on the reading assignments. I will also take attendance at the start of each class. You may miss a maximum of three classes for any reason. After that, any unexcused absence will negatively affect your participation grade. Participation is an integral part of your final grade. I will base your participation grade on the thoughtfulness and frequency of your comments.

Papers: There will be 3 papers (4 to 5 pages each) assigned during the Fall semester. There will be no final exam. During the Spring semester there will be 3 papers (4 to 5 pages) and a 3 hour final exam covering the entire class. Paper
topics will be distributed in class. Papers should be analytical in nature and not simply summaries of the readings. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman, 12 point. Paper grades will be based on the originality and clarity of the thesis, the logic, persuasiveness and depth of the argument, the evidence provided, and on organization and style.

Papers must be handed in at the start of class on the day they are due. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade for the first day they are late and one-half a letter grade for each day thereafter (this includes weekends).

**Midterm:** A midterm exam will be given in class on December 10.

**Academic Honesty:** Please consult the *Student Handbook* for the College’s policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. You are encouraged to discuss your papers with your fellow classmates and/or me while working on them. However, you should not consult secondary sources when writing your papers. If you are unclear on when and/or how to cite a work, please see me.

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability that will affect your participation in class please contact Erin Salva, Coordinator of Disability Services, at x5453 or by email.

**4. Grading**

This is a yearlong course. At the end of the first semester you will receive a preliminary grade. This grade will be calculated as follows:

- Papers: 20% each
- Midterm: 20%
- Attendance and Participation: 20%

Your second semester grade will be made up of 25% for each paper, and 25% for participation. Your final grade for the class will be figured as follows: 40% for each term and 20% for the final exam.


5. Assignments

August

27  Introduction

30  Sophocles, Antigone (whole play)

September

1    Antigone, cont’d

3    Plutarch, “Lycurgus” (Moodle)

6    Plutarch, “Lycurgus”, cont’d


13   Plato, Apology in Four Texts on Socrates

15   Plato, Apology

17   Plato, Crito in Four Texts on Socrates

20   Plato, Crito

22   Aristotle, Politics, Book 1, all

24   Aristotle, Politics, Book 1, continue

27   Aristotle, Politics, Book 2, chapters 5, 7-12

First Paper Due

October

29   Aristotle, Politics, Book 3, chapter 1-13

1    Aristotle, Politics, Book 6, chapters 1-3, 8-12

4    Aristotle, Politics, Book 4, chapters 1-4, 13-17

6    Locke, Second Treatise, Preface and chapters 1-4

8    Reading Day
11 Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapter 5
13 Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6-9
15 Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 15, 19
18 Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*
20 Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*
22 The Declaration of Independence (Moodle)
25 *Federalist #10* and *Federalist #51* (Moodle)
   **Second Paper Due**
27 Brutus on Problems of Large Republics and Centinel on Separation of Powers (Moodle)
29 Lincoln-Douglas Debates (Moodle)

**November**

1 Lincoln-Douglas Debates cont’d
5 J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapters 1 & 2
8 J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 3
10 Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People*
12 Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People*
15 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 1, Introduction, pp. 3-15
17 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol.1, pp. 235-258; vol. 2, pp. 479-88
19 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol 1. 165-186; vol. 2, pp. 489-506
22, 24, 26 THANKSGIVING BREAK

**December**

29 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2, pp. 506-53
1  Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2, pp. 599-617; 639-50

**Third Paper Due**

3  Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2, pp. 661-76

6  Adam Smith, selections from the *Wealth of Nations*, in CP

8  Conclusion

10  Midterm exam

**Read Road to Wigan Pier, Part 1, over vacation**