The Quest for Justice

"The first question which we must ask ourselves is: What kind of life do we wish to lead in our brief span? When we have made up our minds about this it will be much easier to judge the merits of various systems of government..."

Winston S. Churchill

Texts to Purchase:

Sophocles,             Three Tragedies   (Chicago)
Staff                  Quest for Justice Course Booklet
Thucydides             The Peloponnesian War
Plato & Aristophanes,  Four Texts on Socrates (Cornell)
Aristotle,             Politics        (Oxford)
J. Locke,              Second Treatise of Government (Hackett)
J.S. Mill,             A Letter Concerning Toleration (Hackett)
H. Ibsen,              Four Major Plays  (NAL)
A. Tocqueville,        Democracy in America, Vol. II
M. Friedman,           Capitalism & Freedom (Chicago)
G. Orwell,             Road to Wigan Pier (HBJ)

Course Objectives:

1. 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.

2. To present different perspectives on these questions in order that you may understand their complexity and more thoughtfully arrive at your own views.

3. To understand the modern liberal-democratic regime, including its strengths and weaknesses, as presented by its defenders and its friendly and hostile critics.

4. To consider the relation of politics to other major human endeavors, and thereby to help you see both the nobility and limitations of a life dedicated to politics.

5. To help you to think, write and speak more clearly and
intelligently about politics.

Course Requirements:

Class Discussion: We will employ our time together discussing the assigned reading. This syllabus provides you with a specific reading assignment for each day of class. You are expected to read each assignment carefully and to be prepared to discuss it when you come to class. We will have unannounced quizzes, as needed, to help you keep current with the reading.

Written Work: During the first semester you will write three essays (5 pages) on the assigned reading and one shorter essay (1 page). There will also be an in-class exam at the end of the semester. At the end of the year there will be a final exam covering the year's work (3 Hours). Essays must be handed-in the day and time they are due. In accordance with faculty rules, late essays will be penalized (one letter grade for the first day late and one-half letter grade for each subsequent day late) unless you have a medical excuse from the Dean. Extensions must be requested at least three days before the due date of an assigned essay and will be granted only in unusual circumstances. Last minute extensions are given only in true emergencies. Normally, you may have at most one extension each semester. Without prior arrangement, late papers will not be accepted later than two weeks after they are due. Papers which exceed this deadline or are not submitted receive a double F.

If you find that you are unable to complete the assigned work (readings or essays) in this course due to medical or other personal difficulties see me as soon as you experience these problems.

Please read carefully Kenyon's policy on academic honesty printed in the Student Handbook. I encourage you to discuss the issues we are considering, and you are writing about, with your classmates and friends, but you must write your essays by yourself. Please do not use or refer to secondary sources when you write your essays: I want you to confront the ideas and texts in this course directly, unmediated by what some scholar thinks about them. I am interested in your thoughts, not those of some reputed authority.

Grades: At the end of the first semester you will receive a tentative grade for that semester. Your final grade for both semesters of the course will be earned in May. Your semester grade will be calculated as follows: Essays 60%; exam 20%; class discussion & quizzes 20% + or -. Your grade for the year will be determined by counting each semester's grade 40% and the final exam 15-20%. An excellent final exam will count somewhat more than 20%, and, if your work in the second semester is markedly better than that in the first semester, I will count it somewhat more than 40% and your first semester somewhat less.
**Attendance:** We cannot have a good discussion if you are not present in class and prepared to discuss the assignment. Thus I expect you to attend class unless you are ill or must deal with a personal or family emergency. As frosh, you are by regulation allowed only three cuts. Beyond three absences you will receive an F for that day’s work.

**Course Outline and Assignments:**

I. Individual & Citizen in the Ancient City

**August**

30M  Introduction: What is Justice?

**September**

1  Sophocles, *Antigone*, pp. 159-81 (esp. 177-81)
   Short Essay assigned

3  *Antigone*, pp. 181-end
   Short Essay Due

6M  Reread *Antigone*
   Plutarch, *Lycurgus*, pp. 49-53

8   *Lycurgus*, pp. 53-end


15  Plato, *Apology of Socrates* in *Four Texts on Socrates*, pp. 63-78

17  *Apology of Socrates*, pp. 78-97
   *Located in Quest for Justice course Booklet*

20M  Reread *Apology* and read *Crito*, pp. 99-108


II. The Ancient View of Justice-Aristotle

24  Nature, Inequality, and the Political Community
   Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, Chaps. 1-7, pp. 7-20

26  ESSAY DUE AT 5:00pm
27M Moral Education, The Constitution or Regime, & Distributive Justice

Politics, Book II, Chapt. 7, pp. 57-61
Book III, Chapt. 6-9, pp. 97-106

29 Oligarchy, Democracy, & Distributive Justice
Politics, Book III, Chapt. 10-13, pp. 106-20

October

1 Constitutional Government or Polity
Politics, Book IV, Chapt. 8, pp. 150-53 & Chapt. 11, pp. 156-60

III. Modern Liberalism’s View of Justice

4M The State of Nature
Locke, Second Treatise of Government, preface & chs. 1-4, pp. 5-18

6 Property
Locke, Second Treatise..., Chapt. 5, pp. 18-30

8 Forming Civil Society
Locke, Second Treatise..., Chapt. 7 & 9, pp. 42-53 (incl. 2 pages of Chapt. 8) & 65-69

OCTOBER READING DAYS (Oct. 11 & 12)

13 The Dissolution of Society & the Family
Locke, Second Treatise..., Chapt. 19, pp. 107-17 & Chapt. 7, pp. 30-42

15 Religion and Civil Society
Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration, pp. 23-28, 38-55

IV. American Liberal Democracy

18M *The Declaration of Independence

19 SECOND ESSAY DUE AT 5:00 p.m.

20 The Large, Commercial Republic
*The Federalist #10
*Brutus on the Problems of Large Republics

22 The Separation of Powers
*The Federalist #51*  
*Centinel on Separation of Powers*  

25M  
*Lincoln-Douglas Debates*  

27  
*Reread Lincoln's reply at Alton*  
*H. D. Thoreau, "The Law of God and...of the Land"*  

29  
*Frederick Douglass, "Fourth of July Oration"*

V. Liberal Democracy's Friendly Critics  

November  
1M  
Democracy & Liberty  

3  
Liberty of Thought & Discussion  
Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapt. 2, pp. 96-118  
*Terminello v. Chicago*  

5  
Individuality & Democracy  

8M  
Individual & Society  
*Roth v. United States* (1947)  
*Paris Adult Theatre I v. Slaton* (1973)  

10  
Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People*, Act I-III  

12  
Ibsen, *Enemy..., Acts IV & V*  

15M  
Equality, Liberty & Individualism  

16  
THIRD ESSAY DUE, 5:00 p.m.  

17  
Combating Individualism  
Tocqueville, *Democracy...*, pp. 488-506  

19  
Passion for Physical Well-Being  
Tocqueville, *Democracy...*, pp. 506-17  

THANKSGIVING VACATION NOV. 22-29  

29M  
Combating the Passion for Material Well-Being & Democracy and Centralization  
Tocqueville, *Democracy...*, pp. 517-22, 639-50
DECEMBER

1 Democratic Despotism
   Tocqueville, Democracy..., pp. 661-76

   VII. Capitalism and American Liberal Democracy

3 The Division of Labor & the Market
   *Adam Smith, selections from the Wealth of Nations,
     pp.3-16, 734-37, 55-80

6M Market Strengths and Limitations
   Smith, Wealth of Nations, 420-39
   Friedman, Capitalism & Freedom, pp. 1-21

8 Economic Inequality & the Role of Government
   Friedman, pp. 22-36, & pp. 161-76

10 Poverty & Freedom;
   Friedman, pp. 190-202
   See also assignment below

13 In Class Exam

SEMESTER BREAK

Note: Read Road to Wigan Pier, Part I, over Vacation