



Political Science 411.01E and .02E: Liberty, State, and the Person

Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey C. Herndon

Office Location: 162 Ferguson Social Sciences

Office Hours: 8:30-9:30 M-TH; 2-3 TH; and by appointment

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Course Information

Required texts

Hobbes, Thomas. 2008. *Leviathan*, ed. Richard Tuck. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 9780521567978)

Machiavelli, Nicollo. 1979. *The Portable Machiavelli*, translators and ed. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa. New York. Penguin Books. (ISBN: 9780140150926)

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 1988. *Rousseau's Political Writings*, ed. Alan Ritter and Julia Conaway Bondanella, trans. Julia Conaway Bondanella. New York. Norton. (ISBN: 9780393956511)

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 2006. *Democracy in America*, ed. J.P. Mayer, trans. George Lawrence. New York. Harper. (ISBN: 9780061127922)

Wooten, David ed.. 1986. *Divine Right and Democracy*. New York. Hackett. (ISBN: 9780872206533)

Material and documents will also be posted to D2L/Brightspace.

Course Description

Designed to introduce the students to the principles and function of the government of the United States, this course examines the principles underlying the development of the U.S. Constitution, the operations of the U.S. government under the Constitution, and the opportunities and constraints imposed by and on the political system in the U.S. Topics to be covered include the philosophical preconditions of the American experiment in self-government with justice, the documentary history of American government, the actual function and practice of government under the Constitution, and the actors engaged in the American political system.

Student Learning Outcomes

Successful student will:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

1. Synthesize a range of material to develop and present a coherent narrative.
2. Develop and present a literature review on a topic of their choosing.
3. Compose and present at least one academic paper.
4. Critically analyze primary and secondary materials.
5. Engage as scholars with their peers both through the presentation of original material and by serving as discussants for the work others.

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods

This course is a traditional university seminar that is heavily dependent upon student engagement with both the material and each other. Through this engagement you will learn more than if you simply sat there and watched a powerpoint presentation.

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for completing assigned readings and or homework prior to the class for which they are assigned. Furthermore, given the format of the class it is expected that students will have developed talking points/discussion questions prior to coming to class.

“Reading” for a seminar is not the same thing as reading a novel for purposes of entertainment. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the arguments advanced in the readings and to actively respond.

Since this is a seminar, your attendance is vital to your success in this course. You also have a responsibility to your peers to be here and to take part. A seminar is a cooperative endeavor that cannot succeed without your preparation and contribution

Students will succeed to the degree that they apply themselves to the material. Ultimately, a university education is up to the student—you own it. It is the recommendation of your instructor that you review materials developed in class on the day that it is presented as well as periodically throughout the semester.

Grading and Assessment

Your grade will be determined using the following assessment tools.

You will write a minimum of 4 critical analysis papers for this class and lead the discussion of both the reading and your insights. Students not presenting will be responsible for acting as discussants for those presenting (this means YOU HAVE TO HAVE DONE THE READINGS as indicated above—discussants that have clearly not covered the material will face adverse consequences). In addition, you will take a mid-term exam and a final exam. Should it become necessary, the possibility exists for the imposition of readings quizzes (the determination as to whether or not these are required will be made based on overall student engagement). Finally, you will be responsible for completing a literature review associated with the readings.

The point values assigned to each element are as follows:

Critical Analysis papers	100
Discussant engagement	100
Midterm	100
Final	100
Literature Review	100

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Attendance/Participation	50
[Quizzes (if necessary)]	50]

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

501-550	A	330-384	D
446-499	B	0-329	F
385-445	C		

[Should quizzes be required we will use the following scale: 552-600 A; 486-551 B; 420-485 C; 360-419 D; 0-359 F.]

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance will be taken daily and you would be well-advised to attend every class—if for no other reason than the fact that experience demonstrates that you will not do well if you are not here. With this in mind, the attendance policy is relatively simple: As this is a seminar class, your attendance is required. Absences will be excused only under the most extreme circumstances. You have two absences to use without penalty, however, after two absences 5 points will be deducted from the Attendance and Participation grade for each additional absence regardless of the reason.

You should not arrive late to class. If there is a problem with students interrupting the class with persistent tardiness, your professor reserves the right to deny admittance.

Please utilize the facilities before and after class. Coming and going during class is a distraction to your instructor and your classmates.

Electronics Policy: Experience has demonstrated that students do not really understand appropriate ways to use technology while in class. For this reason the following rules are in place.

Cell phones

Numerous studies have demonstrated a strong correlation between phone use in class and poor academic performance (at least three different studies have determined that phone use in class may result in the drop of an entire letter grade for students who insist that the world will end if they aren't engaged in texting or scrolling through social media). For this reason, the following guidelines are in effect for this class.

You are not allowed to use your phone during class—there are **no exceptions** to this rule (please do not ask your professor to make an exception in your case as it will not be granted).

Students are expected to place their phones face down on the desk in front of them where the phone itself is visible. Once placed there, you should not touch it again until class is dismissed.

Failure to comply with this dictate will result in the imposition of a “telephone tax.” If you are seen touching or using your phone in class you will be assessed a five point penalty off of your grade for each infraction. There is no appeal or excuse that is acceptable, so please do not attempt to make such an appeal or excuse.

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Laptops and Tablets

The use of laptops and tablets for note-taking must be approved by the professor. Again, science indicates that taking notes by hand is more effective at helping students retain information. This, in turn, assists in developing analytical and critical thinking skills appropriate to the university as a learning environment and for persons receiving a university degree.

Earbuds, Media Players, and Other Electronic Devices

While it is possible to carry your entertainment options wherever you go and wherever you happen to be, this class is not such a venue. Earbuds, headphones, etc. are a distraction for both you, as a student who is supposed to be actively engaged and responsible for your own education, and your professor. Put simply, it is rude to be listening to something else when you are ostensibly engaged in listening to someone else or in a conversation. Failure to remove such distractions will incur a tonal tariff. That is to say that for each infraction you will have five points deducted from your overall grade.

For further reading:

Cell phone use in class

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2158244015573169>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01443410.2018.1489046>

<https://www.psytopost.org/2018/05/just-cell-phone-possession-can-impair-learning-study-suggests-51228>

<http://www.longwood.edu/news/2015/college-students-test-scores-suffer/>

<https://www.mnn.com/family/family-activities/blogs/students-get-better-grades-when-phones-are-banned>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cellphones-classrooms-contribute-failing-grades-study/story?id=56837614>

<https://news.rutgers.edu/cellphone-distraction-classroom-can-lead-lower-grades-rutgers-study-finds/20180723#.XMju4P1Kipp>

Note-taking

<https://linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/Teaching/papers/MuellerAndOppenheimer2014OnTakingNotesByHand.pdf>

<https://www.collegeraptor.com/find-colleges/articles/tips-tools-advice/laptop-vs-notebook-better-take-notes/>

https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/course_archive/2015-16/F/2011/laptop%20in%20classroom%20article.pdf

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/SingleStudyReviews/wwc_carter_022217.pdf

https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/science/whats-lost-as-handwriting-fades.html?_r=0

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Active listening

<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-be-a-good-listener-31438>

<https://www.educationcorner.com/listening-skills.html>

<https://blog.cengage.com/tips-students-become-better-listener/>

<https://positivepsychologyprogram.com/communication-activities-adults-students/>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of any form of cheating or academic misconduct related to your role as a student. Examples of academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying another student's work, cheating on exams, quizzes, and/or assignments.

The penalty for academic dishonesty in this class is an immediate "0" on the graded material on which the cheating was discovered. For those assignments that might otherwise be among grades dropped in the calculation of final grades (readings quizzes for example), the "0" recorded for academic dishonesty will not be among those dropped.

In addition, in accordance with university procedure [13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty](#), you will be reported to the academic dean of the college in which your major department is housed and the department head in your major department so that a record of your offense may be maintained for purposes of future disciplinary action should it be required.

Under the policy, repeat instances of academic dishonesty may, under university policy and procedure, result your expulsion from the university. With this in mind, consider that any short-term gain that you hope to attain by engaging in unethical behavior is simply not worth it.

Conduct

Student conduct in the university is governed by university procedure [13.02.99.R0.06 Standards of Student Conduct](#). The university requires that all syllabi include a statement from section 2.2 of that procedure. The procedure maintains that students have the obligation "to follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior commensurate with aspiration implied by a college education."

Bear in mind that your behavior reflects not only upon you, but also upon the university. You are expected to demonstrate respect for the institution, your professors, and your fellow students in addition to your own education. This is true even in the context of courses in which controversial topics and issues (such as a political science course) may be discussed.

Your professor will serve as the arbiter of what constitutes appropriate respect and behavior in the context of this class. Students who fail to treat the institution, class, professor, and/or other students appropriately may be dropped from the class and reported to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action should it be required. Examples of disrespectful behavior and attitude includes (but is not limited to) wearing sunglasses in class, failing to put your telephone on silent, failure to remove earbuds, sleeping during class, and having a bad attitude generally.

Contrary to what many people seem to believe, a university education is not a right. Rather it is privilege—and it ought to be treated as such. You should remember that this course is part of

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YOUR education. And your education is, in turn, ultimately your responsibility. Experience demonstrates that some students seek to shift responsibility to others: faculty, other students, etc. This is unfortunate and demonstrates an unwillingness to own that which is yours. Your professors and other university staff are here to help you to succeed, but it is up to you to decide that you are going to succeed and take the steps necessary to make that happen.

Your professor cannot force you to do your homework, read the material assigned for class, or study material presented in class, etc.—that is up to you. But it is true that your success is dependent upon you doing those sorts of things. If you choose not to and your academic performance is less than adequate, it is not the fault of your professor or anyone else. It is yours.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events may require modifications. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced.

University Procedures

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

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For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / READINGS CALENDAR

Week One: Introduction to the Course

Machiavelli
Letters, III-VI (61-72)
The Prince

Week Two: Machiavelli and The Transformation of Political Theory

Machiavelli, *The Discourses*
Dedication-Book I (168-287)

Week Three: Machiavelli and Classical Republicanism

Machiavelli, *The Discourses*
Book II (287-350)

Week Four: Machiavelli and Classical Republicanism

Machiavelli, *The Discourses*
Book III (351-418)

Week Five: Divine Right and the Rights of Parliaments

Wooten, Chapter One
Wooten, Chapter Three

Week Six: Church and State (?)

Wooten, Chapter Four

Week Seven: Bringing Down the Patriarchy

Wooten, Chapter Six

Week Eight: The Condition of Humanity

Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Chapters 10-16 (60-117)

Week Nine: The Mortal God

Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Chapters 17-23 (117-170)

Week Ten: The Ends of Sovereignty and Community

Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Chapters 24-31 (170-255)

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Week Eleven: Rousseau and the Social Contract
Rousseau, *On Social Contract* (84-173)

Week Twelve: Tocqueville, "God does not Himself need to speak..."
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Week Thirteen: Tocqueville, Association and the Dangers of Majoritarianism
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Week Fourteen: Democratic Peoples
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Week Fifteen: Tocqueville, Prospects for the American Republic
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Week Sixteen: Final Exam Week

Technology Requirements **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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