



“Never be cruel. Never be cowardly.
Remember, hate is always foolish and love is always wise.
Always try to be nice—but never fail to be kind.”

Political Science 411: Liberty, the State, and the Person

Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey C. Herndon

Office Location: 162 Ferguson Social Sciences

Office Hours: 8:30-9:30 TTh; 9:00-11:00 W; and by appointment

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Course Information

Required Books: These are the editions of the books **required** for this class. E-books are not a substitute for the actual text. You must have these versions in these translations and **you must bring the assigned book to class** when it is the book under discussion.

Aquinas. 2002. *Political Writings*, ed. R.W. Dyson. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521375959

Hobbes, Thomas. 1991. *Leviathan*, ed. Richard Tuck. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521567978

Machiavelli, Niccolo. 1979. *The Portable Machiavelli*, ed. and trans. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa. New York. Penguin.

Wooten, David, ed. 1986. *Divine Right and Democracy: An Anthology of Political Writing in Stuart England*. Indianapolis. Hackett Publishing. ISBN: 9780872206533

In addition, material and documents will be posted to D2L and may be on reserve in the library.

Course Description

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change*.

Beginning with the Renaissance and historically through the late 18th century, this course is a survey of the changes in conceptions of political order brought about by the rise of nation-states and changing ideas about the proper role of government and its relationship to communities and individuals within them. Topics may include: civil and human rights, the rights of kings, the role of faith, the balance between order and freedom, the emergence of “the middle class” and its effect on conceptions of social order, the “social contract,” and the right of resistance.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Critical Thinking—Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
2. Communications—Student Communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable.
3. Personal Responsibility—Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.
4. Social Responsibility—Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
5. Students will identify key aspects of classical political philosophy.
6. Students will distinguish between political theory and political ideology.

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 you will learn more than if you simply sat there and watched a power point 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 students should 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. You need to familiarize yourself with the arguments advanced in the readings and to engage the material.

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. In other words, your attendance is not only vital to your success, but to the success of your classmates as well.

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 my recommendation that you review materials developed in class on the day that it is presented as well as periodically throughout the semester.

You will be responsible for writing a series of discussion papers dealing with the assigned readings. These discussion papers are to be distributed to the class prior to the class meeting in which they will be discussed. Students not presenting critical discussion papers will be

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responsible for reading and commenting on the discussion papers as part of the seminar. Further instructions regarding these assignments will be distributed separately and posted to D2L.

In addition to your discussion papers, you are responsible for writing an academic paper for this class for presentation and discussion at the end of the course. Again, specific instructions will be distributed and posted to D2L.

There will be two examinations, a mid-term and a final, covering the content developed in the course. In addition, readings quizzes will be given if it becomes apparent that students are not keeping up with the assigned readings as per the reading calendar.

Grading and Assessment

Your grade will be determined using the following assessment tools that taken together total 500 possible points:

Mid Term Exam	100	Quizzes	50
Final Exam	100	Attendance/Participation	100
Final Paper/Presentation	100	Discussion Papers	50

Final grades in this course will be determined by following scale:

455-500	A	300-349	D
405-454	B	0-299	F
350-404	C		

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance will be taken in every class meeting 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. The attendance policy is relatively simple. Each of you has two absences with which to do whatever you want without incurring a penalty. If you don't feel well, you can miss class. If you oversleep, you can miss class. If you would rather do something else, you can miss class. There is no requirement for notes from doctors, parents, pastors, or friends. However, every absence over two will incur a ten point penalty to be deducted from your attendance and participation grade. Two absences in a Tuesday/Thursday class is equivalent to a week off (i.e. “Spring Break”)—and if you miss a week of class you should probably drop the course.

You may use your two absences for any purpose or reason that you choose. Do not bring notes and/or excuses as they are unnecessary under the terms of the generous attendance policy. (At my discretion, under extreme circumstances that are verifiable, an exception may be granted—but the circumstance must be extreme according to my judgment and verifiable.)

Now, with that said, the success of a seminar is dependent upon our interactions with one another. You have a responsibility to yourself and a responsibility to the other members of the class to contribute—and you cannot contribute if you are not here. You will discover that a seminar is not like a traditional class. The idea is that we will learn from each other, and if you are not there you cannot teach and you cannot learn.

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The only exceptions to the absence policy are exam dates and dates when you are scheduled to present your discussion paper or your final paper. You must be in class for these assignments. Make-up exams and exceptions to the presentation requirement will only be given under the most **extreme and verifiable** circumstances.

Attendance is more than being in your seat on time (although timeliness is a virtue). You should come to class prepared. Readings (both the texts and the discussion papers) assigned for particular dates **must** be completed before class. Quizzes (as necessary) will determine if you have adequately prepared for class.

Electronics Policy: Experience has demonstrated that most people do not really understand appropriate ways to use technology while in class.

Cell phones

Numerous studies have shown 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 to use your phone during class.

You will place your phone face down on the desk in front of you 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.

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 me. 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. Furthermore, it will have a negative effect upon your mastery of the course material.

For further reading:

Cell phone use in class

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

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

<https://www.psypost.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/MuellerAndOppenheimer2014_OnTakingNotesByHand.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

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

The *syllabus/schedule* are subject to change.

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.

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 result in 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. Section 2.2 of the policy deals with student "obligations and responsibilities." Under the terms of the procedure, 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 should 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) might be discussed.

Ultimately, I 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 reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action should it be required.

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 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 to own. 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.

I cannot force you to do your homework or read the material assigned for class, or study material presented in class, etc.—that is up to you. However, your academic 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. The institution and I are

here to help you in any way that we reasonably can, but ultimately a university education is your responsibility.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Course Calendar (This calendar is subject to change based upon exigent circumstances)

January	13	Introduction to the Course/Introduction to Aquinas
	18	Aquinas, 5-57
	20	57-83
	25	83-114
	27	114-157
February	01	158-205
	03	239-279
	08	Introduction to Machiavelli
		Machiavelli 54-58
		61-64
		66-71
	10	77-110
	15	111-150
	17	(Class will not meet today)
		Machiavelli 150-166
		168-200
	22	200-234
	24	234-260
March	01	260-294
	03	294-326
	08	326-357
	10	357-394
	22	395-418
	24	Midterm exam
	29	Divine Right And Democracy
		Chapter One
	31	Chapter Two
April	05	Chapter Three
	07	Chapter Four
	12	Chapter Five
	14	Chapter Six
	19	Chapter Seven
	21	Chapter Eight
	26	Hobbes Chapters X-XII, 62-111
	28	Chapters XVII-XXI, 117-154; XXVI, 183-200
May	03	Hobbes Chapers XXVII, 201-213; XXIX-XXX, 231-244

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05	Dead Week
10	Final Exam, 10:30-12:30

University Specific Procedures

Counseling Center Information

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.

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://Office%20of%20Student%20Disability%20Resources%20and%20Services)

<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.

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 campus open computer lab, etc.

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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