

**POL-205-A**  
**POLITICAL IDEAS SEMINAR**  
**Spring 2017 TR 9:30-10:50 AM**

**Instructor: Whitney Manzo**  
**Office Hours: MW 1-2 PM, TR 11 AM-12 PM**

**Office: Joyner 224, Ext. 8540**  
**E-mail: wrmanzo@meredith.edu**

**Course Description**

This course examines political ideas from ancient Greece all the way to present day and from all over the political spectrum. We will read primary sources and center our discussion around four main questions: What is the ideal governing system? How much liberty should we sacrifice in the name of order? How do we balance equality and self-determination? What is the ideal role of women in public and political life?

This course will be conducted as a seminar. Rather than telling you what the readings mean, I will try to help you find ways to discover their meanings for yourself; rather than telling you what to think of the different approaches, I will help you develop your own critical analysis of them. Most class sessions will be spent in discussion, debate and other structured interaction which will actively engage you with the readings and with your classmates. My aim is to help you form a community of inquiry in which you support and learn from each other.

Lastly, this course satisfies the Writing Intensive (WI) requirement for General Education.

**Course Goals**

The course learning outcomes are for you to:

1. Know the basic frameworks which have been developed to understand political theory and apply them to the behavior of individuals, organizations and institutions. (Social Science learning outcome #1)
2. Craft well-developed analyses with clear theses, coherent organization, and supporting evidence. (Writing Intensive learning outcomes #1 and #2)
3. Discuss how political theory can be applied to modern issues in government and politics.
4. Examine how diverse ideologies and cultures shape controversies in political theory. (Social Science learning outcome #3)
5. Demonstrate proficiency in writing conventions of political science, including proper grammar, punctuation, and citation style. (Writing Intensive learning outcome #3)

**Texts** You do not need to purchase any books for this class; everything you need will be posted as a pdf or link on MyMeredith. However, you are responsible for bringing physical copies of the readings to class.

**Other Required Materials** Access to the internet, a word processing program, a printer, and Meredith gmail (you should check this every morning)

<b>Grades and Assignments</b>	10%	Attendance
	15%	Class Participation
	15%	Discussion Board Writing (10 posts)
	15%	Drafts of Formal Papers (4 papers)
	<u>45%</u>	Formal Papers (4 papers)
	100%	Total

*Attendance:* Attendance is expected at all class meetings, and I will be taking attendance each class period. If you miss class, you will miss important material that may be on an essay prompt and you can't participate in class discussion. The attendance portion of your grade will be allocated as follows:

0 absences or 1 unexcused absence: Full 10/10

2 unexcused absences: 9/10

3-4 unexcused absences: 7/10

More than 4 unexcused absences: 0/10

To possibly have an absence excused, you must email me a note with the date and reason for absence by the beginning of the next class (I will not accept paper notes).

*Class Participation:* This grade includes but is not limited to contribution to class discussion, active participation in group work/group assignments, and short papers. If you fail to bring a printed copy of the assigned reading to class, this grade will be marked down.

*Discussion Board Writing:* Before 12 classes throughout the semester, there will be a question or series of questions concerning the reading posted on the discussion board on MyMeredith. Half of you will directly answer those questions while the other half of you will respond to classmates' answers. If you are answering my questions, you are required to post at least 250 words of answer (include the word count in your post) **by 5 pm the night before** a reading is to be discussed. If you are responding to a classmate, you are required to post at least 150 words of response (include the word count in your post) **by class time** the day a reading is to be discussed. Responses to a classmate should be posted below the classmate's answer and not in their own thread. All rules concerning spelling, grammar, punctuation, and citation apply. If you directly quote the reading, make sure to reference page or line number.

I will assign your rotation, A or B, in the first week of class. You may miss 1 answer and 1 response throughout the semester without your grade being marked down, meaning you need to post at least 5 answers and 5 responses. This assignment is meant to help you practice critical thinking and writing about the readings, along with active interaction with others' ideas about them. As such, your grade will be based on quality of answer/response and use of the assigned reading.

*Drafts of Formal Papers:* Four times in the semester, you will turn in a paper draft of your formal paper; emailed drafts will NOT be accepted. For the first two drafts, we will have individual conferences to discuss them. For the second two drafts, I will comment on them and give them back to you.

As these are meant to be drafts of your final papers, they do not need to be perfect or completely finished. However, more complete drafts are obviously more easily turned into final papers, so I expect you to work hard on them. At minimum, each draft should have 2 pages of writing. Your grade for this requirement will be 1/2 draft quality and 1/2 conference participation and timely turning in.

*Formal Papers:* Four times in the semester, you will turn in a formal paper analyzing one or more of our readings. These will be due on MyMeredith by class time on the date indicated. These papers must be at minimum FIVE full pages, and standard spelling, grammar, punctuation, and citation rules apply. If there is a mistake or problem pointed out in a draft and it is not fixed/answered in the formal paper, I will count off points. The rubric for this assignment is posted on MyMeredith.

Grade Breakdown	A: 90-100%
	B: 80-89%
	C: 70-79%
	D: 60-69%
	F: 59% or lower

## Class Policies

*Makeup Work:* Late papers will be accepted with a letter grade dropped for every day the paper is late. Discussion board posts may not be made up, as they are exclusively online and therefore may be accessed anywhere, anytime.

*Inclement Weather:* You can expect for us to hold class unless the school closes due to unsafe conditions. You can check the Meredith inclement weather line at (919) 832-8878 and/or your Meredith email for school closure messages. However, I do not want you to risk your life to get to class- final judgment on this matter rests in your hands.

*Food and Drink:* Food and drink will be allowed so long as they do not become distracting.

*Classroom Etiquette:* We will have lots of discussion in this course, and politics is by nature highly contentious. However, it is essential that every student be polite and courteous to other students, even if they are expressing views that offend or anger you. I will encourage scholarly debate of justifiable opinions, but not disparaging remarks or personal attacks. If I feel you have crossed the line, you will be asked to leave class and your participation points will be marked down. The same etiquette applies to online discussions as well.

*Laptops and Cell Phones:* Laptops will NOT be allowed in this class. This is a discussion-heavy course and all attention will need to be focused on our conversations and analyzing primary documents. Similarly, cell phone usage is banned during class time except for extreme emergencies.

*Extra Credit:* If you visit the Writing Center to receive assistance on a formal paper, you will receive up to 10 points extra credit on that paper. Only one visit to the Writing Center will count for extra credit per paper, though you are certainly encouraged to utilize the Writing Center as much as you deem necessary. You may repeat this for every formal paper (which can add up to 10% of the formal paper grade, or 5 full points on your final average).

*Academic Dishonesty:* Cheating on any assignment in this class is **absolutely forbidden** under the Meredith Code of Honor, which is printed below. If any academic dishonesty is discovered, I will not hesitate to take appropriate action. Possible punishments for this class include a failing grade on the assignment/quiz/exam, failing grade for the course, and a mark on your permanent record. There may also be additional punishments from the Meredith Honor Council. Long story short- **DON'T DO IT!**

## Meredith Honor Code

We, the Meredith Community, are committed to developing and affirming in each student a sense of personal honor and responsibility. Uncompromising honesty and forthrightness are essential elements of this commitment. The Honor System is a method by which individual honors are protected and maintained. Any dishonorable action will be regarded as a violation of this commitment, and corrective action will be taken.

If I am in violation of the Honor Code, to prevent jeopardizing the Honor System or weakening our system of self-government, I have an obligation to report myself to the proper authorities. If I am aware of a violation of the Honor System by another student, I shall call this matter to the attention of that student as a violation of responsibility to the community.

In choosing Meredith College, I am accepting the Honor System as a way of life. As a Meredith student, I am responsible for insuring that the Honor System is at all times carried out.

## Disability Statement

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Counseling Center/Disability Services office. Disability Services is located in Carroll Hall and can be reached at (919)760-8427 or [disabilityservices@meredith.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@meredith.edu). For additional information see the website at <http://www.meredith.edu/on-campus-services/academic-and-support-services/disability-services/>

#### Course Drop Dates

If you decide you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, you may withdraw. You must initiate this process with the Registrar's Office, I cannot do it for you. If you fail to meet the last drop date, you will receive a grade for this course, usually an "F".

Last day to drop without a "W": Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Last day to drop with a "W": Tuesday, March 28, 2017

#### Course Outline

Readings denoted with \* are uploaded to MyMeredith. All others may be found via link in the MyMeredith document "Online Sources of Readings."

Date	Topic	Readings and/or Assignments
January 12	Professor gone at a conference- NO CLASS	
January 17	Introduction and How to Write a Political Science Theory Paper	UNC Writing Center Handout*; "Writing Political Theory Papers"*
January 19	Nature of Man	<i>Politics</i> Book I, Ch. 1-7; <i>Leviathan</i> * Ch. 13
January 24	Establishment of Society	<i>Leviathan</i> * Ch. 17-18 A Answers; B responds
January 26	Establishment of Society	<i>Second Treatise of Government</i> * <b>Draft of Formal Paper #1 due</b>
January 31	Who Should Rule and How	<i>The Prince</i> Ch. 15-17, 21 B Answers; A responds
February 2	Conference Day	
February 7	Who Should Rule and How	<i>The Social Contract</i> * Book 1, Ch. 6 and Book 2, Ch. 1-4 A Answers; B responds
February 9	<b>Formal Paper #1 due</b>	
February 14	Liberty	<i>Leviathan</i> * Ch. 14; <i>The Social Contract</i> * Book 1, Ch. 1-4, 8
February 16	Liberty	<i>On Liberty</i> Ch. 1 B Answers; A responds
February 21	Equality	<i>Politics</i> Book III, Ch. 12-13; <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i> * Book 5, Ch. 1-6 <b>Draft of Formal Paper #2 due</b>
February 23	Justice	<i>A Theory of Justice</i> * A Answers; B responds
February 28	Conference Day	

March 2	Justice	<i>Distributive Justice*</i> B Answers; A responds
March 7-9	Spring Break- NO CLASS	
March 14	Individualism	<i>On Liberty</i> Ch. 4; <b>Formal Paper #2 due</b>
March 16	Individualism	<i>Objectivism*</i>
March 21	Ideal Government	<i>Utopia</i> Book II, “Trades and Manner of Life,” “Traffic,” & “Slaves and Marriages”
March 23	Ideal Government	<i>Communist Manifesto</i> Ch. 1-2 A Answers; B responds
March 28	Ideal Government	<i>Mein Kampf*</i> Vol. 2, Ch. 2 <b>Draft of Formal Paper #3 due</b>
March 30	Ideal Government	<i>Doctrine of Fascism*</i> B Answers; A responds
April 4	No Government	<i>What is Property?*</i> Ch. 4-5
April 6	Professor gone at a conference- NO CLASS	<b>Formal Paper #3 due by 5 pm</b>
April 11	CSA Day- NO CLASS	
April 13	Role of Women	<i>Politics</i> Book I, Ch. 12-13; <i>Emile*</i> A Answers; B responds
April 18	Role of Women	<i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*</i> Ch. 9 B Answers; A responds
April 20	Role of Women	<i>The Subjection of Women</i> Ch. 1 A Answers; B responds
April 25	Feminism	<i>The Second Sex*</i> Ch. 14 and Conclusion <b>Draft of Formal Paper #4 due</b>
April 27	Feminism	<i>The Feminine Mystique*</i> Ch. 1 B Answers; A responds
May 2	Feminism	<i>The Flipside of Feminism*</i> Ch. 2
May 11	<b>Formal Paper #4 due at 12 PM</b>	

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.