

POLS 2700
Issues in Political Philosophy
Fall 2020
TTH 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Professor Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.
Office: McGannon Hall 149
Email:

Examinations

Examinations will be administered through the course's Black Board site. They will open and close at specific times and will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice, and true and false questions.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

March 11th No Class March Break

Course Outline

Dates

Topic

January 28

Introduction to Political Theory and the Course

Readings:

Jan. 28 Plato's 7th *Epistle*

February 16- February 23 Augustine and the Order of Love

Readings:

- Feb. 16 *The City of God*, Books I-VIII (Augustine)
Feb. 18 *The City of God*, Books IX-XXII (Augustine)
Feb. 23 *The Compatibility of Christianity and Politics and War* (Augustine)

Examination One will Open at 5 p.m. on February 24

Examination One will Close at 11 p.m. on February 25

February 25- March 4 Political Realism and Machiavelli

Readings:

- February 25 *The Prince, Prefatory Letter and Books I-XIV* (Machiavelli)
March 2 *The Prince*, Books XV-XX (Machiavelli)
March 4 *The Prince*, Books XXI-XXVI (Machiavelli)

March 9 Thomas Hobbes and the State of Nature

Readings:

None

March 16- March 18 The Liberal State and John Locke

Readings:

- March 16 *The Second Treatise of Government* (Locke)

April 6- April 8

Readings:

Freedom, the Death of God, and Responsibility

April 6

of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter,

in the classroom discussion. Because, the instructor will not be able to monitor the chat for the courses, online students who wish to participate should politely interrupt the instructor in order to be recognized.

Class sessions will **not** be recorded and so any students missing class should consult with other students to share notes from lecture and with the instructor during office hours in order to seek clarification of have their questions answered.

Mandatory Statement on Face Masks (Fall 2020)

The University's [*Interim Policy on Face Masks*](#) governs all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors in all University-owned, leased, or operated facilities. All persons physically present in any such University facility associated with this course shall comply fully with this policy at all times. Masks must be worn before entry to all such University facilities (as well as outdoors on all University property when six feet of distance is unpredictable or cannot be maintained).

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services or Human Resources to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [*ADA Policy*](#)

To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with faculty or staff request to wear a mask in accordance with University policy.

Students are strongly encouraged to identify to their instructor any student or instructor not in compliance. Non-compliance may be anonymously reported via the SLU Integrity Hotline at 1-877-525-5669 (or confidentially via the Integrity Hotline's website at <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu>).

Additional Policies/FAQs

How should a student report an absence?

If you must miss class, please contact your instructor by e-mail to inform them of your absence. Notification should be provided at least one day before class, if possible.

How can a student who is unable to be present in class participate in class remotely?

Students who are unable to physically attend class but are well enough to participate remotely are expected to do so. Please see the previous section on course Zoom policies for further information.

What happens if the course instructor is ill or quarantined?

If your course instructor has to quarantine but is well enough to teach, students will be notified by the instructor via email, and class will meet remotely on Zoom at the regularly scheduled time. The Zoom link is available on the course web page in Blackboard. If your course instructor becomes ill and is unable to continue teaching, an alternative instructor will teach the course for as long as necessary.