

# Andrews University

**PLSC 456: Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Political Thought**  
**Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:30 – 12:20**  
**Fall Semester 2015**

**Professor:** Gary V. Wood  
**Office:** Buller Hall 122  
**Hours:** M/W 2:00-4:00, T/R 11:30-1:30 or by appointment  
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## **Course Description and Objectives:**

This course provides a general overview of the history of political philosophy from antiquity to early modern times. It will examine such thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Locke. The course explores such issues as human nature, the good life, freedom, justice, and authority as understood by pre-modern and early modern theorists. Students will gain an understanding of the differences between ancient and modern political thought and, it is hoped, will come away with at least some appreciation of the fundamental and recurring questions we shall ponder.

## **Required Texts:**

Plato, *The Republic of Plato* trans. Allen Bloom (New York: Basic Books, 1968).

Aristotle, *The Politics*, trans. Carnes Lord (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985).

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985).

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, (Indianapolis, Hackett Pub Co, 1994).

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

## Course Requirements:

1. Exams: There will be three exams as indicated in the class schedule. Students will bring a green book and a pen to the exams. All three exams will be essay. The two midterm exams will be worth 50 points each and the final exam will be worth 75 points. The exams are not cumulative.
2. Term Paper due **Wednesday, December 2, 2015** (100 points): There will be a handout on the 10 to 12 page paper the second week of the term.
3. Reading Journal: Students are expected to maintain a journal regarding their assigned reading. In this journal the student is to write two 8-10 line entries for each assignment (please identify the entries by the specific assignment pages). The first entry must summarize important information or statements in the reading assignments; the second entry must give the student's response to the reading, raising questions, making comments, or expressing any other interactions. Students may respond to whatever aspect or aspects of the reading that inspires a reaction; in the second entry they should not feel they have to write about the entire assignment. Students are expected to bring their journal to class each day, for they may be asked to read aloud their entry for that day's assignment. The entire journal for each section of the class is to be turned in to the teacher on the dates indicated in the syllabus. A maximum of 10 points will be given for each journal entry.
4. Class Participation. Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, to be current in the readings, and to contribute to classroom discussion. The instructor will assume that you have completed reading assignments before class, and will feel free to ask questions of individual students about them. More than three (3) absences will result in the forfeiture of the 5% participation component, as will excessive tardiness, early departure, un-preparedness, disruption, and inattention. A portion of most class periods will be devoted to Socratic questioning regarding reading assignments.

## Grading:

Mid-Term Exams:	100 points	40%
Term Paper	100 points	25%
Final Exam	75 points	25%
Reading Journal	300 points	5%
Participation		5%

### **Grading Scale:**

A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 76-79%, C 70-75%, C- 65-69%, D 55-64%

### **Missed Exams and Late Assignments:**

In fairness to other students, late exams will be given only in the event of documented medical disability or a death in the student's immediate family. Present such documentation the first time you broach the subject with the teacher. Conflicts with work schedules, school schedules, vacations, or non-emergency family matters are not valid reasons for missed exams. Late papers will be accepted, but penalized one letter grade per day late.

### **Extra Credit Work:**

The student's time and energy should be devoted to meeting the requirements of this course. For this reason, extra credit assignment will not be offered.

### **Class Policies:**

**Student Responsibility:** Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University email, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

**Professionalism:** To prepare students for the professional world, certain behaviors/activities are not allowed in the classroom.

- Cell Phones, Personal Laptops, and Recording devices: **Cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom.** Students who choose to text during class will be marked absent for the day. Picture-taking during class is not allowed. Recording devices are allowed only if pre-approved by instructor, and if approved, under no circumstance are recordings—visual or verbal—to be posted on a public website.
- Laptops should not be used for surfing the web or watching movies during class. It is disrespectful and unprofessional to use these devices inappropriately during class.
- Late Assignments are unacceptable unless prearranged with instructor.
- Tardiness; is disruptive and disrespectful to the class and instructor.
- Eating in class: Please do not bring food or beverages to class. Water is permitted.

### **Disability Accommodations:**

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 ([disabilities@andrews.edu](mailto:disabilities@andrews.edu) or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

**Academic Integrity:**

In harmony with the mission statement, Andrews University expects that students will demonstrate the ability to think clearly for themselves and exhibit personal and moral integrity in every sphere of life. Thus, students are expected to display honesty in all academic matters.

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) the following acts:

- Falsifying or presenting falsified documents
- Plagiarizing
- Misusing copyrighted material and/or violating licensing agreements
- Using media from any source or device including the internet in ways that mislead, deceive, or defraud
- Presenting another person's work as one's own
- Using materials other than those specifically allowed by the teacher or program during a quiz or examination
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials
- Obtaining information from another student or any other source during a regular or take home test or quiz
- Assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty such as falsifying attendance records or providing unauthorized course materials"

**Emergency Protocol:**

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

## Assignment Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule. Reading assignments and dates may be adjusted, but assigned material should be read prior to class.

- Aug. 24: Introduction  
26: Plato: *Republic*, Bk. I  
28 Plato: Bk II
- 31: Plato: Bks. III, IV
- Sept. 02: Plato: Bks. V, VI  
04: Plato: Bk. VII
- 07 **Labor Day**  
09: Plato: Bks. VIII IX  
11 Plato: Bk. X
- 14: Aristotle: *Politics*, Bk. I,  
16: Aristotle: Bk. II  
18 Aristotle: Bk. III
- 21: Aristotle: Bk. IV  
23: Aristotle: Bks. V, VI  
25: Aristotle: Bks. VII, VIII, **Reading Journal Due**
- 28: Aristotle: Summary  
30: Review
- Oct. 02 **Exam #1**
- 05: Aquinas: Handout  
07: Continued  
09: Machiavelli: *Prince*, Chps. I-IV
- 12: **Columbus Day**  
14: Machiavelli, Chps. V-VII  
16: Machiavelli: Chps. VIII- XIII
- 19: Machiavelli: Chps. XIV-XVII  
21: Machiavelli: Chps XVIII-XIX  
23. Machiavelli: Chps. XX-XXIII
- 26: Machiavelli: Chps XXIV-XXVI  
28: Machiavelli: *Discourses on Livy*, Handout  
30. Review

- Nov. 02: **Exam # 2**  
04. Hobbes: *Leviathan*, Chps I-X  
06. Hobbes. Chps. XI-XIV  
  
09. Hobbes: Chps XV-XXII  
11: Hobbes: Chps XVII-XXII  
13. Locke: *The Second Treatise*, Chps I-IV  
  
16: Locke. Chp. V **Reading Journal Due.**  
18 Locke: Chps. VI-X  
20. Locke. Chps. XI-XV  
  
23. Locke. Chps.XVI-XIX  
**25: Thanksgiving Break**  
  
30: Locke, Aristotle, and the American Founding  
Dec. 02: **Term Papers Due.** Course Summary and Review for Final Exam

**(Final Exam: Tuesday, December 8, 10:30-12:30)**