

POLS 3361: Western Political Theory from Middle Ages to the Renaissance 1

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Spring 2023 (TTh 9:30a) CAS 258

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Office Hours by Zoom: TBA and by appt

MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THEORY: THE BRIDGE TO MODERNITY

This course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of the philosophical foundations of Western attitudes toward politics and political order. The early Christian response to the ancient Western view of politics was to relegate politics to the earthly realm. In this course, we will trace that development and see how Machiavelli turned it on its head, emphasizing politics for its own sake and ushering in an early modern conception of political life. We will consider different perspectives on human nature, justice, virtue, the consequences and responsibilities attending to power in both its spiritual and secular forms, and how our conversations about politics continue to be shaped by these early considerations.

Brief Course Outline:

The course and our discussion will proceed in four units or “modules.”

Module 1: Political Authority and the Christian Synthesis

Module 2: Beyond the Church—Law and Self-Governance

Module 3: Machiavelli—Power, Order, and Stability

Module 4: Political Reformations

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will learn how to read their political environments critically using the insights of classical political thinkers. Reading assignments, discussions, and written assignments will familiarize the student with various approaches to problems of political community and governance through medieval and early modern political theory, discovering how these attitudes shape our own. The format of the class is lecture and discussion. All discussion and written work in the class is intended to develop students' critical thinking, reading and writing skills. As you do the classwork, that is, as you read, write essays, study, and prepare for class discussions, you should keep in mind that the assigned work in this class is intended to help you develop your skills in the following ways:

- 1) Recognizing IDEAS/FACTS**, that is, develop the ability to recognize key ideas and facts.
 - key *terms* and their *meanings* (including how those meanings differ across periods and thinkers)
 - who* wrote *what*
 - what it *says*
- 2) Making CONNECTIONS**, that is, develop the ability to see connections between and among ideas and the ability to see *how* an author says what s/he says:
 - recognition of the *structure* of the author's discussion (what steps are involved in the way s/he tries to explain his or her position or persuade the reader?)
 - recognition of the *assumptions* that inform the development of ideas
 - recognition of the relative *weight* of ideas (e.g., what is the main *idea*? what are the supporting *ideas*?)
- 3) Using EXTENSIONS**, that is, develop the ability to extend the ideas beyond their context, that is, to make use of them in your own thought without distorting them or violating their meaning.
 - what are the implications of the author's position and the way s/he makes the argument?
 - what did the author leave out?
 - what value may we derive from the author's discussion?

The development of a critical voice means attending to each of these—IN ORDER. *You cannot critique an argument unless and until you can make and defend it on its own terms.* A concerted effort at understanding is the minimum requirement of a student of political theory and the mere baseline of what you will be asked to do in this course.

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TEXTBOOKS: This edition of this text was carefully chosen and is required for the course. Students choosing to use a different or earlier edition are solely responsible for any reconciliation of differences.

--Bailey, et.al., editors, *The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought, Volume One: From Plato to Nietzsche* (Broadview Press, 2008)

--Required readings available on Canvas: (1) Tannenbaum and Schultz, "Political Philosophy: Introducing the Challenge" from *Inventors of Ideas*, pp. 1-15 and "Early Christianity and Politics" pp. 71-75. (2) excerpts from Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* from Losco and Williams, editors, *Political Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings, Volume 1* (Los Angeles: Roxbury, 2003), 280-302.

CANVAS: All written and graded assignments will appear on Canvas. Assignments can be found under the "Syllabus," "Assignments," and "Modules" tabs on the Course page. All written and graded work will be submitted via Canvas. Students will also find supplementary handouts and readings on Canvas. All modules, essays, and attendance/participation grades are weighted as part of your final grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Grading is done on a 10-point scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79, etc. The formal requirements of the course and their relative impact on your final grade are as follows:

1) Class Attendance/Participation 5%

Political theory necessarily involves discussion, and, in that vein, discussion involves taking cues from gestures, tone of voice, etc. To serve this end, you are expected to attend our class meetings regularly and to participate in our class discussions. Bring your understanding of the readings, your questions, your answers, and your insights to class meetings and be ready to articulate and discuss them.

(2) Modules: Readings and Assignment Worksheets Modules (3 x 15% each and 1 x 10%) = 55%

The course is divided into 4 units or modules. You can find the modules under the "Modules" tab on the course's Canvas page. Each module consists of several reading assignments (listed below in the syllabus). Each module is also divided into worksheet assignments. Each worksheet assignment refers to specific readings and includes an *Assignment Worksheet* that must be completed in the week that it is assigned. *These assignments cannot be made up.*

The Assignment Worksheets consist of three (3) Analytical Questions about the readings. You will be asked to read the assigned texts and answer the accompanying questions. **USING ONLY THE TEXTS YOU READ and in your own words**, respond to each question in a coherent, comprehensive paragraph (no lists!) of neither more nor less 100 words each. Be clear, comprehensive, and don't waste words). *Missed worksheets cannot be made up.*

(3) Midterm Essay and (15%) and Final Essay (25%) 40%

Students will be asked to write analytical essays on some aspect of the class material using specific works we have read. These WILL NOT be research papers. Students are expected to limit themselves to the material we have read and discussed and to demonstrate their own substantial analytical abilities. The midterm essay will be 2 pages, uploaded to Canvas as a Word doc (double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman, etc.) and the final essay will be comprehensive and 3-4 pages in length (Word doc, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman) uploaded to Canvas. See the assignments for further instructions. Below are some guidelines for writing your essays:

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WARNING: IGNORE THE FOLLOWING PAPER GUIDELINES AT YOUR PERIL:

(1) **DO NOT try to avoid addressing the issues by talking about the author's writing style, difficulty, etc.** In this class, as in all of your classes in political science, **you are considered a professional willing to work to understand difficult material.** You can always ask the teacher for help, too, but do it BEFORE the day you turn in your paper.

(2) **Write in reasoned, professional terms.** Use your best English: there is no excuse for misspellings; make sure all of your sentences have subjects, verbs, and objects; make sure they match in number; do not use contractions; write in paragraphs (change to a new *but related* thought = new paragraph) above all, do not write the way you speak! Write like a professional.

(3) **Focus on one or two ideas or issues that are common to all the readings.** Do not simply rehearse the argument of the author—in the space allotted, you do not have the time! Your task is to discuss the readings in terms of the one or two most important ideas or issues that you have identified. As a start, consider the issues raised in our discussions in class and where this author/idea fits. **Add your own insights where appropriate. Raise questions and critical issues—do not rant.**

(4) **These are NOT research papers.** Limit yourself to the texts before you. The assignment is designed to get you to read closely, carefully, and analytically. Resist the urge to run to the internet. Force yourself to deal with the text, come to some understanding of the issues raised, and, craft your own argument.

SYLLABUS/READING SCHEDULE

READINGS: Students are expected to come to class having read the reading assigned for that day's class. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL IN THE READINGS—WHETHER THERE IS EXPRESS DISCUSSION OF IT IN CLASS OR NOT—AND THE LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS. Questions about all material are always welcome and should form the lion's share of our experience in this course.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: Students are responsible for turning in assignments on-time. All assignments may be found on Canvas and may be accessed through either the "Modules" link, the "Assignments" link, or the "Syllabus" link. Work for each module will be turned in on Canvas. PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DUE DATES AND TIMES. Most Worksheets are due by the end of the week (Sunday at 11:59pm) they are assigned. Assignments will be closed thereafter. Students are strongly encouraged to read ahead and to turn in their Worksheet Assignments before the Sunday deadline.

MODULE 1: Political Authority and the Christian Synthesis

- 10 Jan T Introduction: Political Philosophy—What and Why?
--HANDOUT from Tannenbaum and Schultz, "Political Philosophy: Introducing the Challenge"; "Early Christianity and Politics" from *Inventors of Ideas* (St. Martin's, 1999), pp. 1-15; 71-74.
--Augustine, *City of God*, Introduction (Bailey, et. al., pp. 263-267)
- 12 Jan Th Augustine
From *City of God*, Preface, Book 1: ch. 1; 1:8; 2:21 (pp. 267-271)
- 17 Jan T Augustine
From *City of God*, 19:1; 19:6; 19:7; 19:11; 19:12; 19:15 (pp. 271-277)

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19 Jan Th Augustine
From *City of God*, 19:16; 19:21; 19:23; 19:24 (pp. 277-281)

24 Jan T Augustine
--From *City of God*, 19:16; 19:21; 19:23; 19:24 (pp. 277-281)

26 Jan Th Aquinas
--Introduction and from *Summa Contra Gentiles* (pp. 302-308)

→Worksheet Due, Sunday 29 January @ 11:59pm

31 Jan T Aquinas
--From *Summa Theologiae*, Questions 90, 94, 95 (pp. 309-322)

2 Feb Th Aquinas
--From *Summa Theologiae*, Questions 90, 94, 95 (pp. 309-322)

7 Feb T Aquinas
--From *Summa Theologiae*, Questions 90, 94, 95 (pp. 309-322)

MODULE 2: Beyond the Church--Law and Self-Governance

9 Feb Th Marsilius of Padua
--Introduction and from *Defender of the Peace* (pp. 323-329)

→Worksheet Due, Sunday, February 12 @ 11:59pm

14 Feb T Marsilius of Padua
--Introduction and from *Defender of the Peace* (pp. 323-329)

16 Feb Th Christine de Pizan
--On CANVAS: from Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (pp. 280-302)

→Worksheet Due, Sunday, February 19 @ 11:59pm

21 Feb T Christine de Pizan
--On CANVAS: from Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (pp. 280-302)

23 Feb Th Christine de Pizan
--On CANVAS: from Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (pp. 280-302)

→MIDTERM ESSAY DUE, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 11:59pm.

28 Feb T Christine de Pizan
--On CANVAS: from Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (pp. 280-302)
--From *The Book of the Body Politic* (pp. 332-337)

2 Mar Th Christine de Pizan
--From *The Book of the Body Politic* (pp. 332-337)

→Worksheet Due, Sunday, March 5 @ 11:59pm

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MODULE 3: Machiavelli—Power, Order, and Stability

7 Mar T Machiavelli
--Introduction and from *The Prince*, Dedication and Chapters 5-8 (pp. 343-353)

9 Mar Th Machiavelli
--From *The Prince*, Chapters 9-14 (pp. 353-361)

**14 Mar T-
16 Mar Th SPRING BREAK (March 13-17)**

21 Mar T Machiavelli
--From *The Prince*, Chapters 15-21 (pp. 361-370)

23 Mar Th Machiavelli
--From *The Prince*, Chapters 22-26 (pp. 370-375)

28 Mar T Machiavelli
--From *The Prince*, Chapters 22-26 (pp. 370-375)

30 Mar Th Machiavelli
--Introduction and from *Discourses on Livy* (pp.375-383)

→Worksheet Due, Sunday, April 2 @ 11:59pm

4 Apr T Machiavelli
--Introduction and from *Discourses on Livy* (pp.383-389)

6 Apr Th Machiavelli
--Introduction and from *Discourses on Livy* (pp.383-389)

→Worksheet Due, Sunday, April 9 @ 11:59pm

MODULE 4: Political Reformations

11 Apr T Luther
--Introduction and from *Temporal Authority* (pp. 390-399)

13 Apr Th Luther
--Introduction and from *Temporal Authority* (pp. 390-399)

18 Apr T Calvin
--Introduction and from *On Civil Government* (pp. 400-406)

→Worksheet Due, Wednesday, April 19 @ 11:59pm

20 Apr Th Conclusion and Review (optional)

26 Apr W FINAL ESSAY DUE on Canvas by 11:59pm

IMPORTANT: This syllabus reflects the minimum requirements of our professional relationship over the course of this semester. By staying in this class, you signify that you

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understand the contents of this syllabus and you agree to the terms and conditions stated herein.

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this class. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the class and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the class in any form without express permission.

Notes on Classroom Etiquette or THE RULES

--Class starts promptly. Be here on time. After the first week or so of the semester, you WILL be denied entry if you arrive more than 5 minutes late. Late arrival is disruptive to the classroom experience of your classmates and, perhaps even your professor. In any case, it works against the mission of the classroom. To this end, I suggest you not drive from class to class—gas is too expensive, and we could all use the exercise.

--The format of the class is lecture and conversation. The classroom is a safe place to ask questions. But they should be questions that derive from work with and in the material and NOT because you did not do the assignment.

--You will not read newspapers, textbooks, or study for other classes while in this class. If you do so, you will be asked to leave—and in no uncertain terms.

--Turn all cellphones and other electronic devices off (or set to vibrate) for the duration of class. You are not to accept calls or engage in text messaging during class. If you do so, I will confiscate your device. If you are awaiting a call or message of extreme importance, I suggest you skip class and accept the consequences.

--You may use a laptop, but only for the purpose of taking notes. If I catch you surfing the web, playing games, or engaged in some other activity not related to the work of the class, you will lose your laptop privileges.

--You are responsible for material missed due to absence. I suggest you exchange notes with other responsible students in any case, but particularly if you have to miss. I am happy to answer questions about this material but will not rehearse my lectures or our class discussions.

--Some semesters, life gets in the way. Should you have one of these semesters, I am more than happy to talk to you about what to do. But if the trauma is too great, I strongly suggest you drop one or all your courses. Your education is vitally important, but there are things that outrank even education sometimes—and *you must make that call when it is necessary*. I cannot grade you on how well or poorly you deal with your life at given moments. Your grades reflect your performance in class—not how well you are dealing with other things. I wish all of us a semester in which these things aren't issues.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS

UT Tyler Honor Code Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free

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Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course

Drop Policy Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester. (Revised 05/17)

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire

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department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

VIOLATION OF THESE STANDARDS will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee and you will fail the assignment and/or the course.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)