

POL 203 - Introduction to Political Ideas: Liberty and Security
University of Arizona
Summer Session I

Instructor: Patrick Rhamey, prhamey@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours: Feel free to contact me via email or catmail's "chat" option. I will be available to chat online daily from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Questions about course materials may also be asked on the discussion room in D2L, for more information, see "Assignments" below.

Required Texts: All materials are either available online or will be provided by the instructor through D2L.

Course Description and Objectives:

This class broadly explores two of the fundamental imperatives in the design of political institutions: liberty and security. The course approaches the application of these two concepts broadly, engaging topics ranging from foreign policy to economic regulation. In so doing, the student will engage both abstract theoretical concepts as well as practical present day policies, immersing the student in both the academic and policy components of political science. Initially, the student is expected to engage in the abstract realm of theory. By the end of the course, students will be confronting various scenarios, including those facing our nation today, and applying the knowledge gained across the semester to provide practical solutions.

As is the nature of any political discourse, many of the topics may be sensitive to some students. It is expected that regardless of the subject matter, students will maintain civility in their comments and discussion. This is not to discourage participation or stifle any perspective, but to demand that students present their views in a manner which is not intentionally visceral. Any departure into personal attacks or inappropriate remarks will not be tolerated. This course will intentionally place students out of their political comfort zones, exploring the theory behind our modern perspectives as well as the direction and future of our current actions. Engaging these ideas, students are expected to ask questions, participate, and formulate their own unique opinions. Refer to the University of Arizona's policy towards threatening behavior for additional information regarding student conduct: <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>.

Objectives for this course are that the student will:

- Better understand the theoretical foundations of government and policy
- Further develop critical thinking and writing skills
- Depart with a greater understanding of political theory

Assignments

- Participation: For each day's assigned reading a discussion question will be posted in the discussion room on D2L. Each student is expected to first, write a thoughtful response to the question provided (2 to 3 sentences). Second, students should not hesitate to interact with the arguments of their classmates and engage in an interesting and civil discussion about the course material. These online discussions will constitute a participation grade in lieu of traditional classroom discussion. (30%)
- Students are expected to write three analytical response papers (2-3 pages) to the readings of the first three weeks of class, due on the Monday following each week. (30%)
- A brief (6-10 pages of double spaced text) research paper evaluating the relationship between liberty and security in a particular policy realm, the implications of existing theoretical approaches, and their practical implications. (40%)

Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. Final grades will be granted on the following scale: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; E: Below 60%. All student records are confidential in accordance with FERPA (<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>)

A Note Concerning D2L: The instructor is fully aware that d2l can be unreliable at times. If you are

having trouble posting on the discussion forums, accessing a reading, or submitting an assignment, please make me aware of the issue via e-mail and attach the relevant assignment.

A Note on Academic Integrity: Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the content and application of course materials. However, all written work must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog (<http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/>).

Special Needs and Accommodations

Students who need special accommodation or services should contact the Disability Resources Center, 1224 East Lowell Street, Tucson, AZ 85721, (520) 621-3268, FAX (520) 621-9423, email: uadrc@email.arizona.edu, <http://drc.arizona.edu/>.

You must register and request that the Center or DRC send the instructor official notification of your accommodations needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. The need for accommodations must be documented by the appropriate office.

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Introduction – Political Theory and Perspectives on Liberty and Security

June 7: Review Syllabus and Familiarize Yourself with the D2L Framework

Take Political Compass Quiz

June 8: The Social Contract – John Jacques Rousseau (Excerpts)

June 9: *A Theory of Justice*, Chapter 2 – John Rawls

June 10: Federalist 51 – James Madison

“Of Civil Liberty” – David Hume

June 11: *The Ethics of Liberty*, Chapters 1-7 – Murray Rothbard

The Domestic Sphere and the Role of Government

June 14: Response Paper Due

Second Treatise on Civil Government, Sections 4-15, 54, 119-22, 163 – John Locke

“Of the Origin of Government” – David Hume (Excerpts)

June 15: “The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism” – Michael Walzer, *Political Theory*, 18:1, 6-23

“Assessing the Communitarian Critique of Liberalism” – Allen E. Buchanan, *Ethics*, 99:4, 852-882

June 16: “Two Concepts of Liberty” - Isaiah Berlin

Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy – Joseph A. Schumpeter (Excerpts)

June 17: *Mein Kampf* – Adolf Hitler (Excerpts)

The Road to Serfdom, Introduction, Chapters 3 & 9 – F. A. Hayek

June 18: *Ethics of Liberty*, Chapters 22-24 – Murray Rothbard

Economic Liberty and Security

June 21: Response Paper Due

Manifesto of the Communist Party – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

June 22: “The Market as Prison” – Charles E. Lindblom, *The Journal of Politics*, 44:2, 324-336

June 23: “How Democratic is America?” – Howard Zinn

Power and the Powerless – Michael Parenti (Excerpts)

June 24: *Capitalism and Freedom*, Chapter 1 & 2 – Milton Friedman

June 25: *Economic Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth* – Ludwig von Mises

Liberty and Security from External Threats

June 28: Response Paper Due

History of the Peloponnesian War, Chapter 17 - Thucydides

“The War Power” – Constitutional Conflicts between the President and Congress

June 29: *Special Providence*, Chapter 7 – Walter Russell Mead

June 30: *Just and Unjust Wars*, Chapters 7, 8, and 18 – Michael Walzer

July 1: *Fighting Terrorism*, Chapter 1 and 7 - Benjamin Netanyahu

Osama Bin Laden Excerpts

July 2: “Government and the Private Production of Defense” – Hans-Hermann Hoppe

Transitions between Security and Liberty: Tyranny and Revolution

July 5: No Class, Independence Day (Observed)

July 6: “Dissent” – Michael Walzer

“Socialism and Man in Cuba” – Che Guevara

“Reflections on the Revolution in France” – Edmund Burke (Excerpts)

July 7: *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, Sections 221-228 – John Locke

The Ethics of Liberty, Chapter 30 – Murray Rothbard

“Letter from Birmingham City Jail” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

July 8: Final Paper Due by 5 pm