

**University of Tennessee**  
**Political Science Department**  
**Introduction to Political Philosophy (POS 300)**

**TR 12:40-1:55 pm, HSS 105**

**TR 3:40-4:55 pm, HSS 113**

**TR 5:05-6:20 pm, HSS 113**

**Spring 2010**

Instructor: Dr. Nikki Mitchell

Office Number: 1010 McClung Tower

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:30 pm. Students may also be seen by appointment.

Campus Phone: (865) 974-7048

UT Email: jgiles3@utk.edu

*It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. -Aristotle*

*We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people. –John F. Kennedy*

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the concepts, enduring questions, and significant thinkers associated with the history of political philosophy. Special attention will be focused on differing conceptions of human nature, politics, the state, civic obligations and rights, freedom, justice, and democracy.

The purpose of this course is to not only familiarize students with essential political philosophies, but to develop an understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the US democratic system, as well as how and why that system might differ from those in other states.

Text and Materials: One required book: Deutsch, Kenneth L. and Joseph R. Forniieri.. (2009) *An Invitation to Political Thought*. California: Thomson Wadsworth.

All students must have access to Blackboard (Online@UT) and UT email for communication, assignments, readings, and other class information. We will also be discussing current events daily, and so you should have regular access to news sources in order to participate effectively. Here are a few useful sites to help you get started:

BBC World News	<a href="http://www.bbcnews.com">www.bbcnews.com</a>
NPR News	<a href="http://www.npr.org/">http://www.npr.org/</a>
The Washington Post	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a>
The New York Times	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a>
The Economist	<a href="http://www.economist.com">www.economist.com</a>
A List of All Newspapers	<a href="http://www.world-newspapers.com/">http://www.world-newspapers.com/</a>

Grading Scale: A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59

Grading Policy: The total number of possible points that may be earned is 400.

3 exams, 100 pts. each	300
<u>attendance</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	400

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer/short essay questions. Students are expected to take exams during scheduled class times. **Make-ups will be permitted only in cases of pre-arranged school related activities (athletes), documented illness, or other documented extenuating circumstances.** There will be only one make-up exam session for those who qualify. This session will be immediately following this class's scheduled final exam.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory for this class, and makes-up 1/4 of the final grade (see above). Attendance will be recorded each day class meets. Students may miss up to 2 days (equivalent to one week of class) without penalty. Each absence above 2 will result in a 10 point deduction from the beginning attendance grade of 100%. For example, a student who misses 3 days of class will have a grade of 90%. If you miss more than 20 minutes of class, either because you are tardy or leave early, you will be marked absent for the day.

Readings: A general schedule of topics/readings is provided below. This course schedule is designed to be flexible in order to accommodate discussion and debate. Reading in addition to the text may also be assigned, and will be posted on Blackboard, emailed to UT accounts, or assigned in class. LECTURES WILL OVERLAP AS WELL AS SUPPLEMENT THE TEXT. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL LECTURE NOTES AS WELL AS ASSIGNED READINGS. This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

#### I. Weeks 1-5

- A. What is political philosophy and how should it be studied? (Intro, pgs xxi-xxviii)
- B. Plato (Ch 1)
- C. Aristotle (Ch 2)
- D. St. Augustine of Hippo (Ch 3)
- E. St. Thomas Aquinas (Ch 4)

\*\*\*\*\*Exam #1: **Tuesday, Feb. 23**

#### II. Weeks 6-10

- A. Martin Luther and John Calvin (Ch 5)
- B. Niccolo Machiavelli (Ch 6)
- C. Thomas Hobbes (Ch 7)
- D. John Locke (Ch 8)
- E. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Ch 9)

\*\*\*\*\*Exam #2: **Thursday, April 1**

#### III. Weeks 11-15

- A. Edmund Burke (Ch 10)
- B. Alexis de Tocqueville (Ch 11)
- C. Karl Marx (Ch 12)
- D. John Stuart Mill (Ch 13)
- E. Friedrich Nietzsche (Ch 14)

\*\*\*\*\*Final exam: **12:40 class: 10:15 am-12:15 pm Tuesday, May 11**  
**3:40 class: 2:45-4:45 pm Monday, May 10**  
**5:05 class: 5:00-7:00 pm Thursday, May 6**

Standards of Conduct: Students are expected to abide by all *Hilltopics* standards of conduct. The guide may be accessed at <http://web.utk.edu/~homepage/hilltopics>

Students must be respectful toward one another and the instructor at all times. Debates and discussions should be based on reasoned analysis and course materials rather than emotion.

Please do not: allow cell phones to ring during class; text-message during class; arrive late or leave early; talk while the instructor is talking; read the newspaper during class; surf the Internet during class; use smokeless tobacco during class; or pack-up while the instructor is talking.

Misbehavior or disruption of the college classroom is totally unacceptable and therefore will not be tolerated. Any student who disrupts class may be asked to leave.

**Statement of Plagiarism:** Plagiarism (cheating) will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of ideas, facts, opinions, illustrative material, data, direct or indirect wording of another scholar and/or writer—professional or student—without giving proper credit. Expulsion, suspension, or any lesser penalty may be imposed for plagiarism.

The university requires each student to commit to the following honor code, which can be found at <http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/plagairism/honor>

*“As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”*

**Email:** Due to privacy concerns, students are required to communicate with their instructor using their official UT email address.

**Withdrawal Policy:** The deadline for withdrawing from a course with a “W” has been extended to the *63rd day of the semester* (formerly 42nd day). Please note, however, that students may benefit from consulting their instructor prior to withdrawing from a course. Often the instructor can assist with challenges that arise during the semester so that withdrawal may be avoided. Students may be eligible for support services the university provides, including tutoring and other academic support, as well as assistance with personal problems.

**Disability Statement:** Students who have a disability that requires accommodation(s) should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (974-6087) to discuss their specific needs.