

**POL-2073 • Political Thought
Spring 2017 Syllabus**

Professor: Dr. Terilyn Johnston Huntington

Office: Faculty Hall 101B

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 2:10-3:10pm and by appointment

Email: terilyn.huntington@mvnu.edu • I check my email frequently and will respond to you within 24 hours during the week. I will address weekend emails on Monday morning.

Phone: 740.392.6868 Ext. 3710

Class Meeting Time: T/R 11:30am-1:00pm

Class Location: Library/Learning Center 001

Course Description: An introduction to the seminal theorists and their contributions to politics and the understanding of human natures.

Course Requirements: (*Note: These grades are weighted within the Moodle grade book. Your midterm grade will be representative of 50% of the total grade.*)

Attendance/Participation (2 @ 10%)	20%	Posted February 24 & April 24
Reading Guides (10@ 1%)	10%	See Syllabus for due dates
Papers (2 @ 10%)	20%	Due February 3 & March 31
Midterm Exam	25%	Due Friday, February 24
Final Exam	25%	Wednesday, April 26; 10:00-11:50am

Grade: Your grade will be determined using the following scale:

A • 100-93%	A- • 92-90%	B+ • 89-88%	B • 87-83%
B- • 82-80%	C+ • 79-78%	C • 77-73%	C- • 72-70%
D+ • 69-68%	D • 67-60%	F • 59-0%	

Required Texts: *Note: For the purposes of discussion, it is important that we have the same version of these texts. Be consider this when tracking down your books for this semester.*

Plato. *Republic*. Transl. G.M.A. Grube. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

Aristotle. *Politics*. Transl. C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

Lowry, Lois. 1993. *The Giver*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Machiavelli. *The Prince*. Transl. David Wootton. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

Collins, Suzanne. 2008. *The Hunger Games*. New York City: Scholastic Press.

Locke, John. *Second Treatise of Government*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

Rousseau, John-Jacques. *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. Transl. Donald A. Cress. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

Lowry, Lois. 2004. *Messenger*. New York City: Ember.

Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

Orwell, George. 1946/1996. *Animal Farm*. New York: Signet.

Class Policies:

General Expectations: Students in this class should be prompt and prepared for each class period. This means having carefully read the assigned readings and establishing your thoughts and reactions concerning the reading assignments for class discussion. This classroom should be a place of hospitality. While we may not agree with one another's views on and interpretations of classroom topics, it is important that your interactions be welcoming and respectful of others in the classroom. Exhibited lack of courtesy towards classmates and/or the instructor may result in the student's removal from the class and/or loss of participation points for the day.

Attendance: Course attendance is required and will be recorded on a daily basis and reported to MVNU's registrar. Each day of attendance will be worth 10 points. Attendance will guarantee 7 points. Student will receive full points for being present and actively engaged in lecture and discussion. Excused absences will be worth 7 points. Attendance scores will be tracked for each class and will be available to students upon request. Attendance scores will be entered into Moodle at the midterm (02/23—130 possible points) and at the end of the semester (04/24—110 possible points). Course attendance and participation will be worth 20% of the student's final grade.

Excused/Unexcused Absences: All absences should be communicated in a timely manner to the professor. MVNU's criteria for excused absences is detailed on pg. 37 of the 2016-2017 catalog. Please contact Academic Affairs in the event of an immediate family member's death and/or prolonged medical absence. Students must provide a medical professional's note in order for illnesses and/or appointments to be excused. Determination of the excused/unexcused status of life events that result in absence not described in MVNU's policy will be up to the professor's discretion.

Technology: Studies have shown that the use of laptops for taking notes during lectures prevents knowledge retention. While not prohibited, the use of laptops and other technologies is strongly discouraged. Use of technology should be limited to classroom content only and should not distract your classmates. **Cell phones are not to be used in any capacity.** Use of cell phones in class may result in dismissal of the student from the class and/or in the loss of attendance points for the day.

Late Work Policy: Assignments should be submitted by the due date and time noted in the assignment description and/or in the syllabus. Late assignments will incur a 5% deduction for each day that they are late up to a maximum of 50%. To be included in the student's final grade, assignments must be submitted by **5:00pm on Friday, April 28.**

Assignments:

Discussion: While Attendance is important, participation in class discussion and activities is vital. Please arrive at class prepared to discuss the merits, shortcomings, and potential application (into the real world) of the assigned text and its ideas.

Reading Guides: Works of political theory can be difficult to understand as they are often translated into English. To assist in a close reading of the texts and comprehension the text's major ideas, students are provided with reading guides for each assigned text. Reading Guides are posted on the course's Moodle site. Students will need to complete and submit 10 of 11 reading guides. Reading Guides will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Passing Reading Guides will have original, thoughtful answers and will have all questions completed. Failing Reading Guides will be incomplete, have consistently incorrect answers, and/or be plagiarized from secondary sources. Reading Guides are *generally* due on the Thursday of each class period. They can be used for discussion and should be turned in to the professor at the end of class. Reading Guides make up 10% of the student's total grade.

Paper Assignments: Students will submit two 3-4 page papers this semester. They will be due at **11:59pm on Friday, February 3** and **Friday, March 31**. The objective of these papers is to engage course texts in a critical way so as to indicate knowledge of the texts' major ideas and to indicate critical reasoning skills through argumentative analysis and direct interaction with the texts. These assignments will be submitted via drop boxes on the course's Moodle site and will be due at 11:55pm on their due-dates. **Paper 1 is worth 10% and Paper 2 is worth 10%, (totalling 20% of the student's final grade).** Late papers will incur a 5% deduction (5 points) for each day late. Papers that do not meet the 3-full page requirement and other formatting requirements will receive a 10% grade deduction.

The papers should utilize a standard citation format (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) All papers are to have a cover sheet with the paper's title, student name, etc. A header with your last name and page number should be included in the upper, right-hand corner on all subsequent pages. Papers must be double-spaced, use 1" margins, and size 12 Times New Roman font. If you have any questions regarding citation format, please refer to <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>. Handbooks are also available at the library. Failure to follow these formatting requirements will result in a lower grade and a potential charge of plagiarism.

Exams: Midterm and Final Exams will be administered in this course. The exams will assess students' knowledge of the course material as presented in assigned readings, lecture, and discussion. The Midterm Exam will be a take home essay exam and will be due to the posted Moodle drop box on **Friday, February 24** and will be worth 25% of the student's final grade. The Final Exam will be administered on **Wednesday, April 26** from **10:00-11:50am**. It will be worth 25% of the student's final grade.

University Policies:

Academic Misconduct: “Academic integrity requires that one acknowledge ideas and expressions borrowed from others. Plagiarism is a special form of academic dishonesty in which writers [a] fail to acknowledge the source of ideas, or [b] portray someone else’s work as one’s own” (*MVNU Catalog* 48+). The five main types of plagiarism are (1) “looking at or copying another student’s work on an assignment,” (2) “un-authorized accessing and/or copying another person’s computer file(s),” (3) “submitting written work purchased from commercial sources,” (4) “submitting written work prepared by another person whether for money or favor,” and (5) “unacknowledged quotation of a published work.” **Students who engage in academic misconduct will receive a zero on the assignment and will be reported to the Registrar’s Office. More than one example of academic misconduct will result in failure of this course.** See the *MVNU Catalog* for further information on institutional policies regarding academic integrity, generally, and cheating and plagiarism, specifically.

Disability and Accommodation: Students who qualify for and desire accommodations in this course due to a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, must follow the *MVNU Accessibility Services Policies and Procedures* as put forth by the Center for Student Success. Any student may review a copy of these policies and procedures online at: <http://www.mvnu.edu/academics/services/dservices.html> or request a copy from the Center for Student Success. For further information or to schedule an appointment to discuss or arrange accommodations, call Deanna Shira-Tackett at extension 4280 or visit the Center for Student Success Accessibility Services Office on the main floor of Thorne LLRC, or email: Deanna.shira@mvnu.edu.

Title IX: Consistent with its mission, *MVNU* seeks to assure that all community members learn and work in a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and *MVNU*’s policy prohibit harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. *MVNU* encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Handbook (<https://mvnu.edu/students/handbook/handbook.pdf>) about what happened so he or she can get needed support and so *MVNU* can respond appropriately. There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. *MVNU* is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, your professor is required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. He or she must provide *MVNU*’s Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, see <http://www.mvnu.edu/policies/PDF/Title-IX-Confidentiality-Protocol.pdf>.

**** This is version one of this syllabus. Changes to the syllabus will be announced and will be posted on the class’s Moodle site. ****

Semester Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: January 9-13	Jan. 10: Syllabus Day	Jan. 12: Lecture: Why Political Theory? Read: No Reading Assignment
Unit 1: Politics and Society		
Week 2: January 16-20 * Plato Reading Guide—Thursday, January 19	Jan. 17: Lecture: Greek Philosophy and Plato's <i>Republic</i> Read: Plato, <i>The Republic</i> : Bk II (pp 32-59); Bk III (pp 87-93); Bk IV (pp 114-121); Bk V (pp 122-156); Bk VI (pp 180-185); Bk VII (pp 186-190)	Jan. 19: Discussion: Plato <i>Republic</i>
Week 3: January 23-27 * Aristotle Reading Guide—Thursday, January 26	Jan. 24: Lecture: Greek Philosophy and Aristotle Read: Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> : Bk I, Ch. 1-13 (pp 1-25); Bk III, Ch. 1, 5-7 (pp 65-67, 73-78); Bk IV, Ch. 1, 4, 8-12 (pp 101-103, 106-111, 114-123); Bk VII, Ch. 14-17 (pp 214-226); Bk VIII, Ch. 1-3 (pp 227-231)	Jan. 26: Discussion: Aristotle <i>The Politics</i>
Week 4: January 30-February 3 * The Giver Reading Guide—Thursday, February 2 * Paper One—due to Moodle drop box by 11:55pm on Friday, February 3	Jan. 31: Lecture: The Soul, Politics, and Planned Societies Read: Lois Lowry, <i>The Giver</i> (all)	Feb. 2: Discussion: Lowry <i>The Giver</i>
Unit 2: Power and Leadership		
Week 5: February 6-10 * Aquinas Reading Guide—Thursday, February 9	Feb. 7: Lecture: The Great Synthesis and Theocracy Read: Aquinas, <i>Politics and Ethics</i> (Posted on Moodle)	Feb. 9: Discussion: Aquinas <i>Politics and Ethics</i>
Week 6: February 13-17 * Machiavelli Reading Guide—Thursday, February 16	Feb. 14: Lecture: <i>The Prince</i> : Humanism, Leadership, and Power Read: Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> (pp 1-80)	Feb. 16: Discussion: Machiavelli <i>The Prince</i>
Week 7: February 20-24 * Midterm Exam—due to Moodle drop box by 11:55pm on Friday, February 24	Feb. 21: Lecture: Political Theory and Authoritarianism Read: Suzanne Collins, <i>The Hunger Games</i> (all)	Feb. 23: No Class: Dr. Huntington at ISA
Spring Break		

February 24-March 12		
Unit 3: Politics, Humanity and the State of Nature		
Week 8: March 13-17	Mar. 14: Lecture: The Enlightenment, Reason, and Representative Government Read: Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> (pp. 7-124)	Mar. 16: No Class: Assessment and Advising Day
Week 9: March 20-24 * Locke Reading Guide—Tuesday, March 21 * Rousseau Reading Guide—Thursday, March 23	Mar. 21: Discussion: Locke <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> Lecture: Colonialism, Europe, Rousseau, and the Noble Savage Read: Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> (all)	Mar. 23: Discussion: Rousseau <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i>
Week 10: March 27-31 * Messenger Reading Guide—Thursday, March 30 * Paper Two—due to Moodle drop box by 11:55pm on Friday, March 31	Mar. 28: Chapter 9 Lecture: Political Representation and Inequality Read: Lois Lowry, <i>Messenger</i> (all)	Mar. 30: Discussion: Lowry <i>Messenger</i>
Unit 4: Politics, Equality, and Society		
Week 11: April 3-7 * Mill Reading Guide—Thursday, April 6	Apr. 4: Lecture: Representation, Equality, and the Tyranny of the Majority Read: J. S. Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> (pp. 1-52; 73-113)	Apr. 6 Discussion: Mill <i>On Liberty</i>
Week 12: April 10-14 * Marx Reading Guide—Thursday, April 13	Apr. 11: Lecture: The Industrial Revolution and Call for Revolution Read: Karl Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (posted on Moodle)	Apr. 13 Discussion: Marx <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
Week 13: April 17-21 * Animal Farm Reading Guide—Thursday, April 20	Apr. 18: Lecture: Is “equality” really equal? Read: George Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i>	April. 20: Discussion: Orwell <i>Animal Farm</i>
Finals Week: April 24-28	Final Exam Wednesday, April 26 10:00-11:50am	