

**SOMEWHAT TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

*The aim of the course is to provide students with an overview of the history of political thought by introducing several basic themes in classical, medieval, and modern political thought. The course proceeds by means of thoughtful investigation of key primary texts.*

**INTRODUCTION**

- Political Thought and Political Science
- Political Thought and Liberal Education
  - *Republic VII*, Plato

**I. CLASSICAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF POLITICS**

- Plato, *Republic*
- Aristotle, *Politics* (selections provided)
- **First Exam: Wednesday, October 1**
- Augustine, *City of God*

**II. THE "REAL" WORLD OF POLITICS**

- Machiavelli, *The Prince*
- Hobbes, *The Leviathan* (selections provided)
- **Second Exam: Friday, November 7**

**III. ENLIGHTENMENT HOPES**

- Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*
- Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"
- Kant, "Perpetual Peace"
- **Final Exam: Thursday, December 11, 8:30 AM**

**REQUIRED TEXTS (in University Bookstore):**

- *Republic*, Plato
- *City of God*, Augustine
- *The Prince*, Machiavelli
- *Letter Concerning Toleration*, Locke
- *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*, Kant

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Regular attendance and participation in class.

- Students are asked to purchase the book editions assigned for the course, and are expected to bring the text under discussion to class on a daily basis
- No computers are to be used during class-time
- Three examinations
- Two short papers (second paper optional)

### **GRADING**

The three exams and one or two papers will be equally weighted to determine the course grade. The final average can be lowered or raised according to the quality of a student's class participation.

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

- Johns Hall 111E; Telephone extension: 3331
- Officially: M-F: 3:00-4:00. I am, however, in my office a lot and you are always welcome to come by. If I am busy at the moment, we will schedule a mutually convenient time to meet.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students with more than two unexcused cuts adversely affect their participation grade. Beginning with the third *unexcused* absence, each missed class is penalized one-third of a letter grade. Participation can be raised on the basis of the quality of a student's active engagement with course materials on a weekly basis.

### **DISABILITIES:**

Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (294-2320), located in ADM 207. After this meeting, please set up a meeting with me. It is in your interest to attend to this EARLY in the term.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Integrity gives the educational enterprise its legitimacy. Honesty, respect, and personal responsibility are principles that guide academic life at Furman, in and out of the classroom. Academic misconduct in any form (plagiarism, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, and other efforts to gain an unfair academic advantage) threatens the values of the campus community and will have severe consequences, such as failure in the course, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any question about what constitutes plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, it is your responsibility to consult with me so that you will fully understand what I expect of you in this course. If you have any doubts, ask! You should also be familiar with the information available at [www.furman.edu/main/integrity.htm](http://www.furman.edu/main/integrity.htm). A copy of Furman's policy on academic dishonesty can also be found at this site.