

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Political Science 201 | Bellevue College | Winter 2017

Monday-Thursday 11:30am-12:20pm in L221

## INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Clifford Cawthon, MA | Email: [Clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:Clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu) | Phone: 425.564.6159

Office Hours: M/W/Th 8:00am-9:00am or by appointment

Office: A200F

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores the philosophical foundations of politics and political activity. Organized around key political and philosophical concepts, such as authority, citizenship, equality, justice, liberty, power, rights, and sustainability. Same as PHIL 201. Either POLS 201 or PHIL 201 may be taken for credit, not both.

## OUTCOMES

1. To obtain a specialized knowledge of political theory with emphasis in the areas of legitimacy, justice, rights, and freedom.
2. To enlarge our political vocabularies, so that we may engage each other in political argument with greater force, flexibility, intelligence, and exactitude.
3. To conduct political dialogue with sympathy, critical attention, passion, and respect.
4. To develop clearly defined perspectives on the originations of political viewpoints and ideologies.

## MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Substantial parts of lecture will be dedicated to discussion, participatory activities and especially on Thursdays. Participation is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to the lecture for which it is assigned. They are also expected to bring the readings to lecture.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grades breakdown:

Attendance & Discussions	10%
Debate	10%
Engaging philosophy Assignments	20%
Midterm	15%
15 Point Quizzes	25%

Final	20%
Total	100%

**Attendance & Discussions-** see the attendance policy toward the end of the syllabus. Seriously, read it! It's not what you think. As for discussions, these discussions will take place every Thursday and they shall cover the readings from that week around a central prompt. These will be freeform discussions and each student will be required to come to class with one question to receive credit.

**Debate-** During the quarter, there will be two scheduled debates where students will be grouped into teams and the audience. The teams will be required to present arguments to support pre-assigned positions and these arguments will relate to current issues and events. The students must use the course material in some form to support their arguments.

The audience will assess each team and determine which team offered a superior argument and assess their style. As they say, "democracy isn't a spectator sport". The assessment cards and framework will be provided by your instructor/

**15 Point Quizzes-** These will be administered online. *There will be 5 quizzes throughout the quarter and will be available on canvas for no more than 12 hours.* They will be available at 9:00am on the day they are assigned and will close at 9:00am the following day. Please contact your instructor ahead of time if you cannot complete this quiz due to an *acceptable absence*. If you miss one of these quizzes, from the time it is administered to 10 days after the quiz closes, you will be able to arrange a makeup-plan with your instructor. *If you do not contact the instructor within that timeframe then your grade will be forfeit.*

**Engaging Philosophy Assignments** – Most weeks, students are asked to address questions about the readings. They will be expected to build upon the readings and lessons to come to their own conclusions based on the prompting question. These assignments will be issued on Thursdays and will be due the following Monday by the end of the business day (5:00pm PST) via canvas. These responses should be in the form of a small essay, 500 to 750 words with an intro, thesis, body (made up of arguments, evidence and examining counter-arguments) and a conclusion. Submissions that do not meet this criteria shall have their submission judged to 70% of its value.

**Midterm-** This will be a 30 question, short, in-class exam covering significant concepts from the readings and lecture. This will include a combination of multiple choice questions and short answers that will require a 3-4 sentence response. There will not be an essay portion. This exam will require the use of scantrons and a green/ bluebook.

**Final Exam-** (Wednesday, 12/5 11:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m) – This exam will be 50 questions, including a 10 point essay on a topic given by your instructor 24 hours ahead of time. This examination will include identifications of key ideas, short answer questions, and a position essay question.

## GRADING SCALE

A	92 - 100%
A-	90 - <92%

B+	88 - <90%
B	82 - <88%
B-	80 - <82%
C+	78 - <80%
C	72 - <78%
C-	70 - <72%
D+	68 - <70%
D	60 - <68%
F	<60%

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

Charles Mills; The Racial Contract (1999)

Aristotle; Politics (1998)

Thomas Hobbes; Leviathan (1994)

John Locke; Second Treatise of Government (1980)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau; The Basic Political Writings (1987)

Karl Marx; Selected Writings (1994)

Angela Davis; Women, Race and Class (1983)

Readings outside of these texts will be posted on the course website.

## COURSE POLICIES

### ***Expectations***

This is a college-level course, which means you are responsible for your own learning. Expectations include:

- completing assignments by the date/time listed in the syllabus.
- coming to class prepared to discuss the day's readings.
- bringing reading materials to class; participating in classroom discussions.
- fulfilling course requirements missed during absences; and taking initiative to answer questions about content and assignments.
- Students are advised to read the syllabus carefully before emailing questions to the instructor.

## Community Expectations

This is a college course so you are expected to treat this class as such. In order to deliver the desired outcomes that we all are here to see, both you, the student, and I, your professor, have a role in your learning process.

The essential expectations that I have are the following:

1. You will turn in work on time, as listed in the syllabus. Or in cases covered in my *late work policy* you will notify me at the earliest moment that you cannot meet the deadline so, provisions could be made.
2. In this class we will be discussing a variety of political ideas, ideologies, and perspectives and in turn, you are expected to be respectful and open minded to the material and your colleague's contributions.
3. Participate! In this class there will be ample opportunity to discuss the theories and work of many different philosophers. Remember though, if you have a tendency to take up a lot of space in the conversation please be aware and considerate and create space for others.

As a member of our learning community, you have a responsibility to your own education here and I have a responsibility to support your education as fairly and thoroughly as I can, as your professor. I expect you to complete assignments in a timely manner, read each assigned supplemental work to prepare for the day's course, and log onto the course website to confirm that you're ready for the work day.

Taking responsibility for your education also requires you to reach out when you need assistance. My office hours are specified above, however, I will do my best to accommodate your schedule and make myself available for questions.

There are no "dumb" questions in this course. If you are confused about something, please ask, or take the time to find the answer by either: a) flexing your research muscles; b) forming a study group for long-term support; c) email me or post a question to the "Ask the Professor" discussion board.

## LATE WORK AND OTHER CLASSROOM POLICIES

**Late work:** Assignments are due on the date listed in the course schedule and the quizzes/tests will be in-class on the date listed in the schedule. You will have a period from two weeks after the assignment's original due date to turn in late work for 85% of the grade. This means that if you turn in work during this two-week period, I will multiply your final score by 85/100.

You do not need to ask me to turn in work during this period; all you need to do is turn it in. Late work may lead to delays in grading and delays in instructor feedback, as I will prioritize work that is turned in on time. In-class quizzes and tests do not qualify for this policy.

If your work is more than two weeks late or you are falling behind due to emergency/unforeseen circumstances, you can work with me to create an individualized plan. Please do not make requests for extensions in person at the beginning or end of a class period because it is difficult for me to properly keep track of agreements made hastily. Instead, email me at [clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu) or please schedule a time to meet with me or come to my office hours.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

**English Second (or more) Language Students:** If English is your second language, you can use a translation dictionary during in-class assessments (quizzes and exams). The dictionary must be a book not an electronic dictionary, and it must be the type of translation dictionary that only includes the translation, not the definition. If English is a second (or third or fourth) language, I encourage you to talk with me directly so that we can make sure the learning environment works for you.

**Electronics Policy:** At the beginning of class please turn your phone on silent and put it away. Unless I state otherwise, phones are not allowed in class and I will reserve the right to call you out on it. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. If at any point you feel that you need to use your device(s) for communications, please quietly get up and do so outside.

In order to respect the wishes of other, by default there is no recording of any audio or video allowed in the classroom. Nevertheless, if any of these policies prohibit you from being able to learn in the fullest possible way, please meet with me to work out an individualized solution.

During final exams and exams, electronic devices will not be allowed. If you attempt to exit the classroom during a final with an electronic device or use one during an examination, it will be assumed that you are attempting to cheat and you will receive an automatic grade of "0".

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

**Attendance:** It is critical to your learning experience that you attend class. In a case of a serious illness, injury, traffic accident, family illness, or an emergency which for legal, physical or for emotional well-being of your family requires your presence during class time; please contact me via email or my office phone to inform me that you will not be able to attend class.

Those who contact me after they were absent from class within 48 hours of that absence will be excused. Though, if this isn't an isolated incident then I reserve the right to not excuse the absence or make an inquiry in order to come up with an attendance plan that will work for you. Please work with me, I am here for you.

The Consequences and Opportunities of missing class, and coming to class are the following:

***During the course, I will be keeping attendance. For those who miss more than 30% of classes, they will have 3 points deducted from their final exam. For those who attend 60% of classes during the quarter then they will receive 5 additional points on their final exam.***

**Email and Canvas Inbox:** Canvas provides many different places to communicate with me (replies to my feedback/grading, etc.), which can sometimes make communicating more challenging than it needs to be. The best ways to communicate with me are: in person during office hours (or by appointment); through my BC email; or the Canvas 'inbox'. I may check these locations at odd hours, such as at night or over the weekend. But please do not expect me to reply outside of regular business hours. Respect the dynamic that teaching this class is my workplace. On my end I will be answering your messages swiftly. However, if I do not answer your inquiry in about a day, you should feel comfortable to follow up.

## Institutional Commitments and Policies

### Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

### Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

NOTE: For those who celebrate and/ or observe holidays which may affect their academic performance during an exam or assessment, please notify your instructor straightaway so we can work together to create a plan that works for you.

## College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

## Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Such behavior will result in a zero grade for the assignment/exam in question. Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050p/>.

Plagiarism in my class will be dealt with in the following way:

1<sup>st</sup> offence: Warning, no formal report or citation will be made. Counseling on proper citation will be given.

2<sup>nd</sup> offence: Warning and recording of the offence. This information may be used in a formal report if needed.

3<sup>rd</sup> offence: A formal report will be made to College authorities.

## Important Resources/Services

### **Disability Resource Center – B132- THEY'RE AWESOME!**

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact Autism Spectrum Navigators. Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call the reception desk at (425) 564.2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by Skype: the address is DRCatBC (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually DRCatBC). Please visit the website at Disability Resource Center for application information and other helpful links.

### **Multicultural Services – 2nd Floor of B building (above the bookstore) THEY'RE GREAT!**

Multicultural Services (MCS) is a student-centered service program on campus that is designed to support all students in general, and diverse student populations in particular. MCS is a broad program that can assist students with tutoring in Math and English as well as help students locate community resources such as food and housing assistance. Please familiarize yourself with MCS by stopping by or visiting: [bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/)

### **Counseling Center – 2nd Floor of B building (above the bookstore)**

The Counseling Center provides personal, career, and academic counseling for all registered BC students. The Counseling Center can be a helpful place for locating community resources (referrals) as well as free counseling appointments with the center's staff of licensed mental health counselors. Please familiarize yourself with the services offered by the counseling center by stopping by or visiting: [bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/)

# Lesson Roadmap

## Week 1

1. Monday, Sept. 17 – Introduction and Syllabus Review  
No readings
2. Tuesday, Sept. 18 – Political Responsibility, Authority and Dissent; and the pursuit of wisdom  
Reading: Plato – Apology (Available on Canvas)
3. Wednesday, Sept. 19 – Questions of Justice; The State, the Individual  
Reading: Plato- Republic (Available on Canvas) Part 1, Ch. 1-4; Part 2, Ch. 5-7, 11-14; Part 4, 33-34.
4. Thursday Sept. 20th – Discussion: please bring one question based on the material from this week.

## Week 2

5. Monday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> - Forming Human Communities  
Reading: Aristotle – Politics (Book I: Ch. 1-9, 12-13); Aristotle – Politics (Book III: Ch. 1, 4-9, 11-18)
6. Tuesday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> – Justifying Rule  
Reading: Aristotle – Politics (Book IV: Ch. 1-11; Book VI: Ch. 2-3; Book VII: Ch. 1-3)
7. Wednesday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>-
8. Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>- Discussion: Please bring one question to share with the class.

## Week 3

9. Monday, Oct. 1st – The State of Nature & Universal Laws  
Reading: Hobbes – Leviathan (Hobbes' Introduction, Ch. 6, 13-15)
10. Tuesday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – NO CLASS- Professional Development Day
11. Wednesday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Creating a Political Community  
Reading: Thomas Hobbes – Leviathan (Ch. 16-21, 29)
12. Thursday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>- *Debate: There will be two teams and the instructor will randomly select teams of 5, during week 2. The question will be given on Sept. 25th. Audience members: be prepared to offer critique and feedback.*

## Week 4

13. Monday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Liberal Political Theory

Reading: John Locke – Second Treatise of Government (Ch. 1-4)

14. Tuesday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – The Origination of Property

Reading: John Locke – Second Treatise of Government (Ch. 5, 7-9)

15. Wednesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> – Proper Government, Rights Retained, & Dissolution of the Commonwealth

Reading: John Locke – Second Treatise of Government (Ch. 10-15, 18-19)

16. Thursday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – Discussion: On Rights and Liberal Government (with some distribution on the side)

Reading: [Both texts will be available in Canvas] Thomas Paine- On The Rights of Man (Pt. 2, Ch. 2-3); Agrarian Justice

Week 5

17. Monday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – Critical Perspectives

Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Discourse on the Origin of Inequality Part I

18. Tuesday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – The State of Nature & The Origination of Property & Exclusion

Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Discourse on the Origin of Inequality Part I (cont.)

19. Wednesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – The Problematics of ‘Ownership’ and Inequality in Property

Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Discourse on the Origin of Inequality Part II

20. Thursday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – Discussion: Please bring an article about social/ economic inequality.

Week 6

21. Monday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> - The General Will & True Consent

Reading: Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (Books 1)

22. Tuesday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Forging the Perfect Political Community

Reading: Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (Book 2-3)

23. Wednesday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> – Review for Midterm

24. Thursday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>- **In- Class Midterm**. Only Week 1-5 will be on the midterm.

Week 7

25. Monday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>- Power through Virtue and Fortune

Reading: Machiavelli, The Prince (Ch. 6-7)

26. Tuesday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> - Power through Playing Dirty or Through Civil Means & how to keep it)  
Reading: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Ch. 8-10)
27. Wednesday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – Hegelianism and History  
Reading: [Available on Canvas] G.W.F. Hegel, 'Introduction' to the *Philosophy of History*
28. Thursday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – *Debate: There will be two teams and the instructor will randomly select teams of 5, during week 6. The question will be given at the beginning of week 7. Audience members: be prepared to offer critique and feedback.*

#### Week 8

29. Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Economic Conditions & Historical Materialism  
Reading: Karl Marx, *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (Alienated Labor, Private Property and Communism)
30. Tuesday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> –Historical Materialism  
Reading: Karl Marx, *The German Ideology* (Part 1)
31. Wednesday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> - Class Struggle, History and Communism  
Reading: Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
32. Thursday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - Discussion- *The Civil War In France*  
Reading: [Available in Canvas] Karl Marx, *The Civil War in France*

#### Week 9

33. Monday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Day, No Class!
34. Tuesday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Contradictions in so-called “free” society  
Reading: [Available on Canvas] Frederick Douglass, *What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?*
35. Wednesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Race and the Construction of Society  
Reading: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (Pt. 1- Overview)
36. Thursday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Discussion Normalizing Race in the Contract  
Reading: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (Pt. 2- S1-2)  
Please bring a question to share with the class. The prompt for this week will be the following:  
Can we meaningfully change the terms of the Racial Contract in present day America?

#### Week 10

37. Monday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – Racial Contract and Theory in Action

Reading: Charles Mill, The Racial Contract (Pt. 2 S3-4)

38. Tuesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – The reality of the Racial Contract and Racial Perspectives

Reading: Charles Mill, The Racial Contract (Pt. 3 S1-2)

39. Wednesday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>- America for some, not all

Reading: Angela Y. Davis; Women, Race and Class (Ch. 1 & 3)

40. Thursday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>- HOLIDAY!!!!

#### Week 11

41. Monday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> The Meaning of Liberation

Reading: Angela Y. Davis; Women, Race and Class (Ch. 5)

42. Tuesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> Black Women, the Vanguard and Nexus of the Charge for Liberation

Reading: Angela Y. Davis; Women, Race and Class (Ch. 9-11)

43. Wednesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Review for the Final Exam

44. Thursday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> Review for the Final Exam

#### Week 12

45. Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am-1:20pm- Final Exam