Course Page: https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/55912

Course Description: This course is an introduction to political theory, one of the subfields of political science. Political theory provides the conceptual and normative foundations for research in political science, and draws on political philosophy and the history of political thought to contextualize and explain developments in politics. The course introduces students to the subject of political theory by considering two fundamental concepts in the study of the political and social world: power and justice.

Prerequisites: None.

Learning Objectives: Students completing this course will learn about the different ways that power and justice have been conceptualized, and will become adept at identifying connections to closely-related concepts like freedom, authority and equality. Students will learn how to identify the practical consequences of theoretical arguments, and will develop skills in close reading and textual analysis. Finally, students will sharpen their writing skills by completing two essays that engage deeply with the course materials.

Instructor Office Hours: Tuesdays 1pm-3pm. Group session (1-2pm) or 1-on-1 appointments (2-3pm).

Required Texts: All course texts will be distributed on Canvas, in the corresponding module.

Discussion Sections: The course has seven discussion sections, each led by a teaching assistant (TA). Participation in a discussion section is required. Discussion sections provide an important opportunity to discuss and apply course material. Teaching assistants are graduate students in the Department of Political Science.

Section 1: W 2:00p-2:50p (Marianna Garcia)
Section 2: W 3:00p-3:50p (Alison Boehmer)
Section 3: Th 6:00p-6:50p (Giulia Corno)
Section 4: Th 7:00p-7:50p (Giulia Corno)
Section 5 (7)*: F 11:00a-11:50a (Alison Boehmer)
Section 6: F 1:00p-1:50p (Marianna Garcia)
Section 8: F 1:00p-1:50p (Kevin Flannagan)
*Section 5 became Section 7 when the time was changed.

TA Office Hours: Teaching assistants are available to discuss course material and provide grading feedback.

Alison Boehmer — Tuesdays, 9-10am (link) or by appointment.
Giulia Corno — Thursdays, 5-6pm (link) or by appointment.
Kevin Flannagan — Fridays, 2-3pm (link) or by appointment.
Marianna Garcia — Mondays, 10-11am (link) or by appointment.

Final Grade Calculation:

- Discussion Section Participation (20%)
- Weekly Response Memos, due on Tuesdays at 11:59pm (15%)
- Midterm Essay, due Friday April 26 at 11:59pm (30%)
- Final Essay, due Wednesday June 12 at 11:59pm (35%)
Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is an important responsibility for all of us. All of your graded work must be composed by you, without assistance. If you are unfamiliar with the University’s policy on academic integrity, visit https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/.

Course Policies: Other course policies are at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Introduction

Monday, Week 1 (1M): April 1

- No assignment.
- Optional: Berlin, *An Introduction to Philosophy* (recording) (45 minutes)

The Problem of Power

Wednesday, Week 1 (1W): April 3

- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, Book 5 (9 pages)
- Dahl, *The Concept of Power* (4 pages)
- Optional: *The Melian Dialogue* (film) (6 minutes)

Dimensions of Power

Monday, Week 2 (2M): April 8

- Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness* (8 pages)
- Bachrach and Baratz, *Two Faces of Power* (6 pages)
- Lukes, *Power: A Radical View* (5 pages)
- Optional: *Lukes Explains the Third Dimension of Power* (recording) (31 minutes)

Authority, Legitimacy

Wednesday, Week 2 (2W): April 10

- Aristotle, *Politics* 3.6 - 3.8 (5 pages)
- Weber, *Power, Domination and Legitimacy* (14 pages)
- Anscombe, *On the Source of the Authority of the State*, Section 1 (9 pages)

Freedom, Liberty

Monday, Week 3 (3M): April 15

- Pitkin, *Political Leadership and Charismatic Power* (11 pages)
- Berlin, *Two Concepts of Liberty* (22 pages)
- Optional: Friedrich, *Political Leadership and the Problem of Charismatic Power* (10 pages)

Non-Domination

Wednesday, Week 3 (3W): April 17

- Scott, *Behind the Official Story* (16 pages)
- Pettit, *The Domination Complaint* (8 pages)
- Optional: Pansardi, *Power To and Power Over* (11 pages)
Corruption, Abuse of Power

- Bakunin, *Power Corrupts the Best*
- Shklar, *The Liberalism of Fear*
- Optional: *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (film)

Limitation of Power, Separation of Powers

- De Jouvenel, *Limited Power*
- Madison, *Federalist #10* and *Federalist #51*
- Optional: Moriss, *Power*

Midterm Essay Due (by 11:59pm)

Definitions of Justice

- Plato, *Republic*, Book 1
- Optional: Plato, *Republic*, Book 1 (recording)

Justice as a Limitation on Power

- Plato, *Republic*, Book 2
- Optional: Plato, *Republic*, Book 2 (recording)

Principles of Justice

- *Transcript of the Putney Debates*
- Douglass, *The Constitution of the United States*

Justice and Freedom

- Gray, *Liberalism*
- Optional: *The Harm Principle* (recording)

Theories of Justice

- Sen, *What do we want from a theory of justice?*
- Optional: *The Veil of Ignorance* (recording)
Theories of Justice

Wednesday, Week 7 (7W): May 15

- Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, Chapter 1 (28 pages)

Equality and Fairness

Monday, Week 8 (8M): May 20

- Vonnegut, *Harrison Bergeron* (6 pages)
- Anderson, *What is the Point of Equality?* (4 pages)
- Friedler and Wilson, *Fairness in Machine Learning* (9 pages)

Equality and Capabilities

Wednesday, Week 8 (8W): May 22

- Singer, *The Moral Obligations Owed to Strangers* (recording) (20 minutes)
- Sen, *The Capabilities Approach* (16 pages)
- Nussbaum, *Capabilities as Fundamental Entitlements* (10 pages)
- Optional: *The Life You Can Save* (2 minutes)

Memorial Day

Monday, Week 9 (9M): May 27

- No assignment, no class meeting.

Democracy and Authority

Wednesday, Week 9 (9W): May 29

- Aristotle, *Politics* 3.10; 4.7 - 4.11 (8 pages)
- Arendt, *Authority in the Twentieth Century* (16 pages)

Democracy and Justice

Monday, Week 10 (10M): June 3

- Guttman, *Democracy* (11 pages)
- Przeworski, *Minimalist Conceptions of Democracy* (6 pages)

Justifying Democracy

Wednesday, Week 10 (10W): June 5

- Forster, *Two Cheers for Democracy* (9 pages)

Final Essay Due (by 11:59pm)

Wednesday, Week 11 (11W): June 12