

Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2022

(L32 106)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.
McMillan Hall G052



This course offers an undergraduate-level introduction to the field of political theory, which is the study of the concepts and values that are central to governance and politics: for example, democracy, power, freedom, and justice. Over the course of the semester we will read some historical texts that are considered “canonical,” such as Jeremy Bentham’s *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation* and Karl Marx’s *Capital*. However, our emphasis will be contemporary works, like those of Elizabeth Anderson, Michel Foucault, and Charles Mills. By the end of the semester, students will:

- have a good working knowledge of the texts we’ve studied and the arguments their authors advance;
- have the fundamental skills needed to read, analyze, debate about, and write about similar texts in political theory; and
- be well-equipped for further study in the field of political theory, including, but not limited to, the history of political thought sequence at Washington University.

Contact Info, Office Hours, and Section Times

Professor Hayward

Email: chayward@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/my/clarissarilehayward

Office hours: Tuesdays 3-3:50 PM and by appointment, Seigle 232 (when in person)

Amaan Charaniya, Political Science PhD Student and Graduate Associate Instructor

Email: a.charaniya@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/7492932150

Office hours: Tuesdays 10-11 AM and by appointment, Seigle 258 (when in person)

Jenna Pedersen, Political Science PhD Student and Graduate Associate Instructor

Email: jenna.pedersen@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/3925701472

Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2 and by appointment, Seigle 274 (when in person)

Julia Cleary, TA, section A (Wednesday, 4-4:50, Seigle 204, when in person)

Email: cjulia@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/99386246939

Office hours: Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 and by appointment, Whispers Café (when in person)

Layla Zonouzy, TA, section B (Wednesday, 4-4:50, Seigle 104, when in person)

Email: l.s.zonouzy@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/7898404669

Office hours: Fridays 12-1 and by appointment, Library Map Room (when in person)

Harper Hoover, TA, section C (Thursday, 9-9:50, Seigle 305, when in person)

Email: harperhoover@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/6923028858

Office hours: Fridays 2-3 and by appointment, Whispers Café (when in person)

Lucas Veloria, TA, section D (Thurs., 3-3:50, Wrighton 250, when in person)

Email: l.a.veloria@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/4825724215

Office hours: Wednesdays 11-12 and by appointment, DUC (when in person)

Micah Benning-Shorb, TA, section E (Thurs., 4-4:50, Seigle 204, when in person)

Email: b.micah@wustl.edu; Zoom link: wustl.zoom.us/j/8121798740

Office hours: Tuesdays 4-5 PM and by appointment, DUC (when in person)

Kasey Noss, TA, section F (Friday, 2-2:50, Seigle 210, when in person)

Email: k.noss@wustl.edu; Zoom link: <https://wustl.zoom.us/j/3907847494>

Office hours: Mondays 1-2 and by appointment, Newman Exploration Center, Olin Library (when in person)

Michael Allison, TA, section G (Friday, 3-3:50, Seigle 210, when in person)

Email: michaelallison@wustl.edu; Zoom link: <https://wustl.zoom.us/j/93007318062>

Off. hours: Thurs. 10-11 AM and by appt, Law Library Main Atrium (with glass ceiling, when in person)

Lara Briggs, TA, section H (Friday, 2-2:50, Seigle 205, when in person)

Email: b.lara@wustl.edu; Zoom link: <https://wustl.zoom.us/j/96447831328>

Office hours: Thurs. 1-2 and by appointment, Orchid Room (first floor), DUC (when in person)

Course Materials

All readings are available online through Canvas. You should print out the files (unless you prefer to annotate electronic copies), mark them up, and have them handy during lecture and section (since we will refer to the readings during class meetings).

Course Requirements

The readings for this course are challenging. Your professor, the graduate instructors, and the TAs organize lecture and discussion sections with a view to helping you understand, think about, and apply them. For us to be able to do that, we need you to read, and to read carefully, *before* the relevant lecture. To encourage you to prepare well for class, we require that you answer a few simple questions, posting your answers on Canvas no later than 11:59 the evening before each lecture. (This timing is important, not only because late answers will not receive full credit, but also because we will use your answers to help shape the lecture.) Short answer scores count for 15 percent of your grade, and attendance at and participation in weekly section meetings count for 10 percent.

You will write three midterm examinations, which you will complete during the normal class period on Wednesday, February 16; Wednesday, March 23; and Wednesday, April 27. Each exam will focus on the readings covered during the previous third of the course; they are not cumulative. Each exam counts for 25 percent of your grade.

Grading

For the short answers, we simply want to be sure you read carefully and thought about the reading assignment. We do not expect you to understand everything before lecture, so please do not feel alarmed if you don't! To the contrary, clearly stating what confused you about the reading will count as evidence that you read. If you write a cogent reply that shows that you have read, and if you submit it on time, you will receive full credit. If you submit your response on time and you do not hear back from your TA, you can assume you received full credit.

Your exams will be more challenging. They may include multiple choice questions, short answers, and/or essay questions. We will spend some time in class in advance of the first exam explaining the details of the format and making sure you understand what to expect and how to succeed. (As of the writing of this syllabus, we are not yet sure whether we will be able to be in person for the exams, so more details TBA). We will also spend a little time reviewing exemplary answers and common mistakes each time we return the exams. We are very happy to meet with you individually both before and after exams, to answer any questions you have.

What should you do if you think the grade you received on an assignment was unfair? First, wait at least twenty-four hours but no more than one week from the time you received the grade to appeal. Provide the Graduate AIs and Professor Hayward with a written statement explaining why you believe your grade should be different than the grade you received. Within one week of receipt of your appeal, we will

provide you with a written response and offer to meet with you for further discussion. **Please be advised that, should our team re-grade your assignment, although it is possible that your grade will go up, it might also go down.**

Academic Integrity

Before completing your first assignment for this course, please take the time to carefully review Washington University's Academic Integrity Policy which you can find here: <https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/academic-policies/undergraduate-student-academic-integrity-policy/>.

You should pay particular attention to the discussion of plagiarism, which is defined as “taking someone else’s ideas, words or other types of work product and presenting them as one’s own.” This policy applies to **all** of your work in Introduction to Political Theory, **including your daily homework assignments**. If you have questions or confusions about any part of the policy, please contact Professor Hayward before handing in an assignment in which you are concerned you might inadvertently violate it. Note: we will report any suspected violations to the School of Arts and Science’s Academic Integrity Committee.

Student Resources and Accommodations

Washington University is committed to promoting equal educational access for of all its students. If you have an accessibility issue and would like to request accommodations, please contact Disability Resources, located in Cornerstone at South Forty- Gregg House, or email disabilityresources@wustl.edu. If you are eligible, they will give you an accommodation letter that you should bring to Professor Hayward as soon as possible. Please visit <http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/disability-resources/> for more information.

The University also offers academic accommodations to students who are survivors of sexual assault, regardless of whether they seek criminal or disciplinary action. If you need to request such accommodations, please direct your request to Kim Webb (kim_webb@wustl.edu), Director of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. You can learn more about available resources at the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center by calling (314) 935-8761.

Mental Health Services’ professional staff members work with students to resolve personal and interpersonal difficulties, including but not limited to conflicts with or worry about friends or family, concerns about eating or drinking habits, and feelings of anxiety or depression. See shs.wustl.edu/MentalHealth.

There are also many ways for all students to receive academic support throughout the semester. All of the members of our team—the undergraduate TAs, the Graduate Associate Instructors, and Professor Hayward—are happy to meet with students during office hours or at another scheduled time to review course materials, provide feedback on exams and homework, and discuss the ideas covered in lecture.

Additionally, the Cornerstone Learning Center is an excellent resource where students can receive peer mentoring and help with study skills, time-management and note-taking:

<http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/academic-programs/help-with-courses/>.

Finally, let us know if there are other ways we can support you. For example, if a religious holiday that you observe conflicts with a class meeting or assignment, notify Professor Hayward and the Graduate Associate Instructors in advance, so that they can work with your TA to make alternative arrangements. If you have to miss class due to illness, please let them know that, as well. The Introduction to Political Theory team is cognizant of the fact that this has been an unusually difficult time for college students, and we very much want to help you navigate it.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

I. Democracy

Wednesday, January 19: Zack Beauchamp, “American Democracy is Tottering. It’s Not Clear Americans Care.”

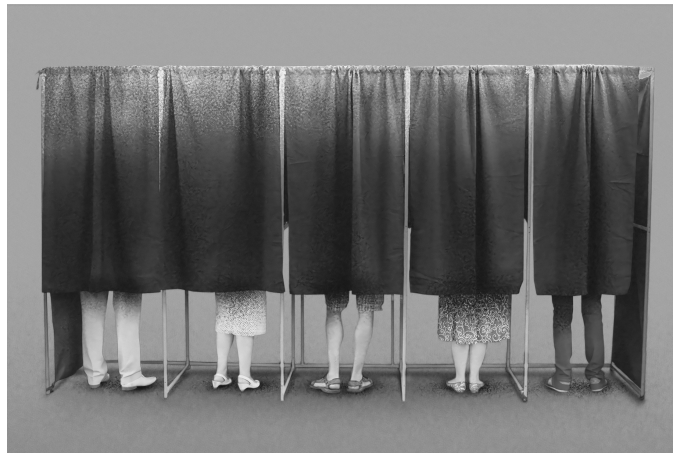
Please note: we *will* have section meetings this week.

Monday, January 24: Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*, chs. 6 and 7

Wednesday, January 26: Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*, chs. 8 and 9

Monday, January 31: Jon Elster, “The Market and the Forum”

Wednesday, February 2: Bruce Ackerman and James Fishkin, “Deliberation Day” *and*
Lynn Sanders, “Against Deliberation”



Monday, February 7: Chantal Mouffe, *The Democratic Paradox*, chs. 1 and 4

Wednesday, February 9: Elizabeth Anderson, "Private Government"

Monday, February 14: Deva Woodly, "Movement Means Changing Politics"

Wednesday, February 16: Midterm on democracy

Please note: we *will not* have section meetings this week.

II. Power and Freedom

Monday, February 21: Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*, 2nd edition, ch. 1

Wednesday, February 23: Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Part III, ch. 3

Monday, February 28: J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. 1 and 2

Wednesday, March 2: Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"

Monday, March 7: Charles Taylor, "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?"

Wednesday, March 9: Philip Pettit, "Freedom as Anti-Power"

Week of March 14: Spring Break (no class)



Monday, March 21: Marilyn Frye, “Oppression” and
Alison Bailey, “Privilege”

Wednesday, March 23: Midterm on power and freedom
Please note: we *will not* have section meetings this week.

III. Justice

Monday, March 28: Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”

Wednesday, March 30: Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Contents and chs I-II

Monday, April 4: Karl Marx, *Capital, Vol. 1*, pp. 302-43

Wednesday, April 6: Karl Marx, *Capital, Vol. 1*, pp. 361-384
and 417-19 *and*

Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the
Communist Party”

Monday, April 11: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*,
pp. 3-22 (sect. 1-4), 54-65 (sect. 10-11),
75-83 (sect.13), and 90-100 (sect. 15-16)

Wednesday, April 13: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 100-108 (sect. 17), 118-
122 (sect. 20), 136-161 (sections 24-26), and 175-182 (sect. 29)

Monday, April 18: Charles Mills, “Racial Exploitation”



Wednesday, April 20: Charles Mills, "Rawls on Race/Race in Rawls"

Monday, April 25: Review and Conclusion (no new readings)

Wednesday, April 27: Midterm on justice

Please note: we *will not* have section meetings this week.