

Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2024

(L32 106)

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

Simon 1



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. Its focus is theories of 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;
- have the skills needed to read and analyze works of political philosophy;
- have developed their capacities to think about, debate about, and write about important ideas in politics; and
- be well-equipped for further study in the field of political theory, including but not limited to more advanced political theory courses at Washington University.

Contact Info, Office Hours, and Section Times

The Graduate AIs are your first point of contact for most course-related questions. Because they work as a team, please include both of them, CCing Prof. Hayward, on emails with scheduling or other logistical queries, requests for extensions due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, and the like. The undergrad TAs are a terrific resource for you if you have questions about readings, lectures, or assignments. Please feel free to drop by the office hours of anyone on our team. You do not need to be in a TA's section in order to visit their office hours, and you do not need an appointment to talk to us during our office hours. You can also reach out to any of us to make an appointment to meet outside of office hours.

Professor Hayward: chayward@wustl.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4 PM and by appointment, Seigle 238

Peter Bachman, Political Science PhD Student and Graduate Associate Instructor

Email: bachman.p@wustl.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays 10-11 AM and by appointment, Seigle 276

Leticia Oliviera, Political Science PhD Student and Graduate Associate Instructor

Email: m.l.oliveira@wustl.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 and by appointment, Seigle 259

Noah Greer, TA, section A (Wednesday, 4-4:50, Seigle 303)

Email: gnoah@wustl.edu

Office hours: Mondays 7-8 PM and by appointment, DUC

Emma Ward, TA, section B (Wednesday, 4-4:50, Seigle 306)

Email: e.l.ward@wustl.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 7-8 PM and by appointment, DUC

Neil Chavan, TA, section C (Thursday, 9-9:50, Seigle 210)

Email: chavan.n@wustl.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays 7-8 PM and by appointment, DUC

Lauren Berkowitz, TA, section D (Thursday, 3-3:50, Simon 020)

Email: berkowitz.l@wustl.edu

Office hours: Fridays 3-4 and by appointment, DUC

Kerrigan Ferland, TA, section E (Thurs., 4-4:50, Simon 022)

Email: f.kerrigan@wustl.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30 – 12:30 and by appointment, DUC

Emma Nitsun, TA, section F (Friday, 10-10:50, Seigle 210)

Email: e.h.nitsun@wustl.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 3-4 and by appointment, DUC

Matthew Gomez, TA, section G (Friday, 11-11:50, Seigle 210)

Email: gomez.m.j@wustl.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 1-2 PM and by appointment, DUC

John Li, TA, section H (Friday, 1-1:50, Seigle 210)

Email: ljohn@wustl.edu

Office hours: Mondays 1-2 PM and by appointment, DUC

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

Reading quizzes and other homework (25 percent of final grade)

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 help check your reading comprehension in advance of lecture, we require that you take an untimed, open-book quiz on the readings, 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. Quizzes completed late but before the start of class the next day (i.e., between 12 midnight and 2:29 PM) receive up to 50 percent credit. Quizzes completed after the start of class will not receive credit except in cases where students have a doctor's note excusing them due to illness.

Midterm exams (20 percent of final grade each; 60 percent total)

You will write three midterm examinations, which you will complete during the normal class period on Wednesday, February 14; Wednesday, March 20; and Wednesday, April 24. Each exam will focus on the readings covered during the previous third of the course; they are not cumulative. Each exam counts for 20 percent of your grade. Your exams may include multiple choice questions, fill in the blanks, and/or short answers. 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. We will also spend some time reviewing exemplary answers and common mistakes each time we return the exams. We are happy to meet with you individually before or after exams, to answer any questions you have.

Section attendance and participation (15 percent of final grade)

Every student must register for a discussion section, and weekly attendance and participation is required. There will be no new readings assigned for section meetings. Instead, these are an opportunity for you to review, discuss, apply, critique, and debate with one another about the material from earlier in the week. To receive full credit for participation at a given section meeting, you need to arrive on time; stay until class ends; be present (really present, not on Instagram, texting, etc.) for the duration; and participate actively in a way that demonstrates that you have carefully read and thought about the assigned texts. In the event that you have a conflict that prevents you from attending section one week, you should attend a different section. In that case, please email both the TA who leads the section you normally attend and the TA whose section you would like to attend, CC'ing Prof. Hayward and the Graduate AIs. This is important for two reasons (1) as a courtesy to your TA and the TA whose section you'll be visiting and (2) to enable the TAs to coordinate, which will ensure you receive credit for attending and participating.

Grading

The number to letter conversion for the course is as follows:

A:	94-100
A-:	90-93.9
B+:	87-89.9
B:	84-86.9
B-:	80-83.9
C+:	77-79.9
C:	74-76.9
C-:	70-73.9
D+:	67-69.9
D:	64-66.9
D-:	60-63.9
F:	0-59.9

Students who are taking the course Pass / Fail must score at least a 70 to pass.

What should you do if you think the grade you received on an assignment was unfair? 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 approximately 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 we 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/>.

NB: Using an AI content-generator (such as ChatGPT) to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty.

Please be advised that we will report any suspected violations to the School of Arts and Science's Academic Integrity Committee.

If you have questions or confusions about any part of the policy, contact Professor Hayward.

Student Resources and Accommodations

Washington University is committed to promoting equal educational access for 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 <https://students.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](mailto:kim_webb@wustl.edu) (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.

Staff at WashU's [Center for Counseling and Psychological Services](#) 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. They offer both in-person and Zoom appointments.

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, WashU's [Learning Center](#) is an excellent resource where students can receive peer mentoring and help with study skills, time-management and note-taking.

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 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 soon as possible and, barring truly exceptional circumstances, no later than the day of the class or assignment with which you have a conflict, so that we can work with you to ensure that your illness does not interfere with your success in the course.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Wednesday, January 17: Introduction (no course readings)

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

I. Democracy

Monday, January 22: Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*, chs. 6 and 7

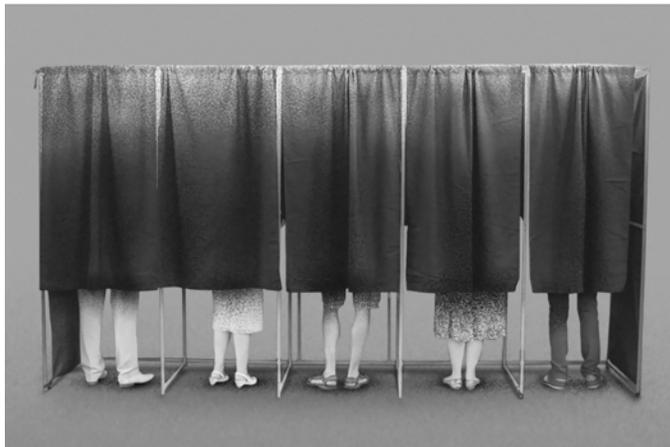
Wednesday, January 24: Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*, chs. 8 and 9

Monday, January 29: Jon Elster, “The Market and the Forum”

Wednesday, January 31: Bruce Ackerman and James Fishkin, “Deliberation Day”
Lynn Sanders, “Against Deliberation”

Monday, February 5: Audre Lorde, “The Uses of Anger”

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



Monday, February 12: Elizabeth Anderson, "Private Government"

Wednesday, February 14: Midterm on democracy

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

II. Power and Freedom

Monday, February 19: Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*,
2nd edition, ch. 1

Wednesday, February 21: Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Part III, ch. 3



Monday, February 26: J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. 1 and 2

Wednesday, February 28: Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"

Monday, March 4: Charles Taylor, "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?"

Wednesday, March 6: Marilyn Frye, "Oppression" and Alison Bailey, "Privilege"

Week of March 11: Spring Break (no class)

Monday, March 18: Shen-yi Liao and Bruce Huebner, "Oppressive Things"

Wednesday, March 20: Midterm on power and freedom

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

III. Justice

Monday, March 25: Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”

Wednesday, March 27: Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Contents and chs I-II

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

Wednesday, April 3: Karl Marx, *Capital, Vol. 1*, pp. 361-384 and 417-19 and

Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”

Monday, April 8: 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 10: 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 15: Charles Mills, “Racial Exploitation”

Charles Mills, “Rawls on Race/Race in Rawls”

Wednesday, April 17: Iris Marion Young, “Structure as the Subject of Justice”

Monday, April 22: Review and Conclusion (no new readings)

Wednesday, April 24: Midterm on justice

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