

GVPT241
Summer 2007
Class Meetings: TuTh
Time: 9:00am – 12:20pm
Location: TYD 1101

Professor: René Paddags
Office Hours: after class or by appointment
Office: 1143 Tydings Hall
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Introduction to Political Philosophy: Global Citizenship

Course Description and Objectives

This survey course is intended to introduce you to political philosophy. We will study the history of political philosophy not only because of our intellectual curiosity, but more importantly to learn what might help us most in our pursuit of happiness. Central to this task is to understand what it means to be a citizen in a global world. Becoming a good citizen is neither self-explanatory nor an easy task, so we will set out to educate ourselves about this crucial matter. The greatest and most immediate challenge in pursuing this task is posed by the apparently contradictory demands of local and global citizenship.

In addition to understanding the complexities of citizenship, the course will give you an introduction to the history of political ideas, to main concepts used by political philosophers, and to look at the world with philosophic eyes. The reading and writing assignments will improve your ability to read critically and facilitate your ability to express yourself in writing.

Lastly, to learn how to study political philosophy usually requires the reading of whole books, instead of excerpts. I have therefore selected readings which we will be able to read together throughout the summer session.

Required Texts

There are six required text, which is available for purchase at the UMD Bookstore:

- Thomas Pangle, ed., *The Roots of Political Philosophy: Ten Forgotten Socratic Dialogues*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988).
- Cicero, *On Duties*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
- Vitoria, *Political Writings*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).
- Thomas More, *Utopia*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).
- Thomas Hobbes, *Man and Citizen (De Homine and De Cive)*, ed. Bernard Gert (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1991).

Course Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to attend class regularly and complete all of the assigned reading before class. To encourage you to do so, I will give several pop quizzes and in-class assignments.

Your grade in this class will be determined as follows:

- 10% pop quizzes
- 25% active participation
- 40% essay (due at the beginning of class on August 16)
- 25% final (August 23)

In the essay, you will write on a topic which I will hand out in class. You have two weeks to complete the assignment. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, and between 8-10

pages. Papers will be graded on the extent to which they fulfill the assignment and the accuracy, clarity, and thoughtfulness with which they are written.

The final will test your understanding of and ability to analyze material from the books and lectures. They will consist of short answers and essay questions. Be prepared to recall what you have learned and to write clear, thoughtful, and well-supported answers to challenging questions.

The pop quizzes will be unannounced and will simply test your comprehension of the reading assignment. It will take ten minutes to answer the question, which you should answer directly, as it only requires an accurate description of the text.

As the success of this class depends on your active participation, you will be expected to come to class well prepared, i.e. you should have read the material carefully, preferably more than once, taken notes, and formulated your own thoughts and questions. In addition, you should participate frequently and thoughtfully to the class discussion. Lastly, I expect that you inform me promptly when you have to miss a class, if possible before class.

I will use the following grade distribution:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

The University has a legal obligation to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. *Students with disabilities should inform the instructor of their needs at the beginning of the semester.* The instructor will then consult with the department chair and Disability Support Services. They will help to determine and implement appropriate academic accommodations.

Students will not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs, and will be given the opportunity to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. *It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance.* Notice should be provided as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period.

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event that the campus is closed due to snow or other reason, any class time missed will be made up (if deemed necessary by the instructor).

THE COURSE OUTLINE

I. Course Introduction: Democracy and Citizenship

July 17 Introduction to the Course/Syllabus
Alcibiades I

II. Citizenship in Ancient Rome

July 19 Cicero, On Duties
Book 1

July 24 Cicero, On Duties
Book 2

July 26 Cicero, On Duties
Book 3

III. The Universal Empire and Its Critics

July 31 Bible, Koran, and Vitoria
Selections

August 2 Vitoria
Selections

August 7 More, Utopia
Book 1

August 9 More, Utopia
Book 2

IV. The Modern Republic

August 14 Hobbes, On the Citizen
Epistle Dedicatory, Preface, I-IV Of Liberty

August 16 Hobbes, On the Citizen
V-XVIII

*****Writing Assignment Due on August 16*****

August 21 Plato, Theages and Laches

*****Final Exam – August 23*****