

GVPT100 – Introduction to Government and Politics
Summer 2009
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This class is designed to give students an introductory overview of Government and Politics as it is studied today. Some of the questions that will be explored are: Why is a government necessary? What is its role? What is the role of citizens? What is the best form of government? How important is freedom? Power? Happiness? Money? What is the relationship between politics and the market? What are today's problems? Is America really "land of the free and home of the brave"?

Such questions are clearly difficult to answer, but through writings from ancient, modern, and contemporary times, this class will begin to address the issues that political thinkers have entertained for years.

Required texts

Sophocles	Antigone
Plato	Republic
Machiavelli	The Prince
Marx and Engels	Communist Manifesto
Ehrenreich	Nickel and Dimed
Course reading packet	(available in Tydings Copy Center 1 st floor)

Course requirements

Quizzes	20%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Exam	20%
Participation	20%

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. They will be unannounced, and mainly to make sure you are keeping up with the readings. The highest 4 quiz scores will count.

Paper assignments will be emailed in advance. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and 4-5 pages. Papers 1 and 2 (hard copies) must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late papers will not be accepted.

The exam will be essay format, given in class on our last day, Aug. 20.

Reading Schedule

I The purpose of government.

Aug. 3	Sophocles	Antigone
Aug. 4	Plato	The Republic (327a-367e, 427d-449a)
Aug. 5	Plato	The Republic (514a-521b, 588b-592b.)
Aug. 6	Machiavelli	The Prince (Ch. 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21.)

II Market and politics.

Aug. 10	Marx, Engels	The Communist Manifesto
Aug. 11	Ehrenreich	Nickel and Dimed (Intro., Ch. 2, Evaluation.)
Aug. 12	Barber	Consumed (selections in course packet)
Aug. 13	Barber	Consumed (selections in course packet)

III Contemporary civil society.

Aug. 17	Havel	Power of the Powerless (selections in course packet)
Aug. 18	King	Letter from Birmingham jail (selections in course packet)
Aug. 19	Putnam	Bowling Alone (selections in course packet)
Aug. 20	IN-CLASS EXAM	