Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description

This is an introduction to the study of politics through a consideration of some of the basic elements associated with governing: the political association, justice, constitutions, equality, liberty, conflict among citizens and between citizens and governments, conflict among governments. Each of the course instructors uses a different set of readings, drawing on a mix of political philosophy texts, works on international politics, novels, biographies. Emphasis is on interesting and important readings, discussion, and writing.

This particular course will look at ancient Greek political thought (Aristotle), modern liberal political thought (Locke and Mill), and conclude with contemporary analysis of the differences between liberalism and democracy and debate whether liberalism is universal (Zakaria).

Course Objectives

1. The student will learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories of politics through a close reading of important texts and discussions of their major themes.
2. The student will develop skill in both oral and written expression through in-class presentations and analytical papers.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in politics as demonstrated through readings, class discussion, and analytical papers.
4. The student will demonstrate ethical knowledge pertaining to politics as demonstrated by considerations of justice, individual rights, liberalism and possible universal values.

Grading

The final course grade will be determined by class participation (20%), two short papers (25% each), and a final exam (30%).

Class participation includes attendance, answering questions about the readings in class, involvement in class discussions, and making one in-class presentation on one of the assigned readings. Class
discussions will involve going over the readings in some detail, so students must complete the day’s reading assignment before class. Current events will also be discussed when appropriate, so students should also keep up with the news. Students will sign up to present on a particular date and reading during the first class.

The two short papers will be due in hard copy at the beginning of class on May 28th and June 11th, respectively. No outside research will be necessary. More detail on each paper will be provided in class.

The final exam will be cumulative and will take place during the last class session on June 18th. The exam will consist of short answer IDs and one or two long essays. More detail will be provided in class.

If you do not complete one or more of the requirements, you risk failing the course.

**WCAS Grading System**
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (0.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (0.00), failure; I (0.00), incomplete; F (0.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (0.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (0.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

**Text(s)/Readings (Required)**
The course will use the following books, which are available for purchase at the BC Bookstore:

Aristotle, *Politics*. Translated by Ernest Barker. (Oxford University Press, 2009);

Locke, John, *Second Treatise of Government*. (Hackett, 1980);

Mill, John Stuart, *On Liberty*. (Dover, 2002); and,


**Text(s)/Readings (Suggested)**
Students are highly encouraged to keep up with current events through reading a daily newspaper such as the *Boston Globe, Washington Post or New York Times* or a weekly news magazine such as *The Economist*. Student subscriptions are offered at very low rates, and students could also peruse the news in the O’Neill Library at Boston College.

Class discussions of politics will reference current events, so please do keep up with the news.
Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is
the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

**Deadlines**
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly, with a one grade reduction (e.g. from A to B) for every day late.

**Course Schedule and Assignments**
Please note that all reading assignments are due on the date on which they appear on the syllabus. In other words, the assignment for Friday, May 16\textsuperscript{th} is to have read the assigned chapters listed for that day. Careful reading of the assigned portions is very important as much of the learning in this course will take place through class discussions in which we will engage together in analysis and consideration of the readings. In addition, close and timely reading of the assignments will assist in your writing of the papers and performance on the final examination.

Please also bring the book we are reading with you to class, as we will refer to the text frequently.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 14\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Friday, May 16\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Aristotle, <em>Politics</em>, Book III, All Chapters</td>
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<td>Monday, May 19\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Aristotle, <em>Politics</em>, Book IV, All Chapters</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 21\textsuperscript{st}</td>
<td>Aristotle, <em>Politics</em>, Book V, All Chapters</td>
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**PAPER #1 IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 28\textsuperscript{th}**

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 28\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Locke, <em>Second Treatise of Government</em>, Chapters 1 through 7</td>
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<td>Friday, May 30\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Locke, <em>Second Treatise of Government</em>, Chapters 8 through 13</td>
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<td>Monday, June 2\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
<td>Locke, <em>Second Treatise of Government</em>, Chapters 14 through 19</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 4\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Mill, <em>On Liberty</em>, Chapters 1 and 2</td>
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<td>Monday, June 9\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Mill, <em>On Liberty</em>, Chapters 3 and 4</td>
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**PAPER #2 IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11\textsuperscript{th}**

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 11\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Zakaria, <em>The Future of Freedom</em>, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Monday, June 16\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Zakaria, <em>The Future of Freedom</em>, Chapters 4, 5 &amp; 6 and Conclusion</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 18\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM - CUMULATIVE</strong></td>
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