

Political Science 1110-003: Political Life

Fall Semester 2009

When: TR 12:45-2:05 PM

Where: 327 Rogers-Stout

Instructor: Ken Mijeski
Office: 301-D Rogers-Stout
Telephone: 439-6627
E-mail: mijeskik@etsu.edu
Office Hours: 3:30-4:30 PM M-R
AND BY APPOINTMENT

REQUIRED READING

The following books are required. They can be obtained in the University bookstore and other locations.

Sophocles, *Antigone*
Plato, *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*
Golding, *Lord of the Flies*
Melville, *Billy Budd*
Arthur Miller's adaptation of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*

The following readings are also required and I will make them available on the D2L (Desire2Learn) site for this course.

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (selections)
Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (selections)
Karl Marx, selections from his early writings

NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course is a conversation about the political dimensions of our lives as human beings. The focus will be upon politics as it appears in the course of people's lives rather than upon politics as it is portrayed in the newspapers or on our television screens. The course is a liberal arts course insofar as it recognizes that there are many alternative paths to understanding political life. It is also a Writing Intensive (WI) course and an Oral Intensive Communication (OCI) course as will be apparent in the remainder of the syllabus.

COURSE PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

You will be expected to use and develop your abilities to read carefully, to reason and express your ideas clearly -- in writing and orally -- to think critically, to listen closely, to interact expressively and in a civil manner with your colleagues. The course, therefore, is designed as a seminar rather than as a lecture course. ***It is imperative that you complete the assigned readings on a daily basis and be prepared to discuss them in class.*** Your course grade will be based on the following sources:

- 1) Instructor's evaluation of your oral communication (25% of course grade)
- 2) Instructor's evaluation of your written work (75% of course grade)

Oral Component

The oral component of your course grade will come from the following *two* sources:

- 1) After I evaluate and return each of your major essays (see next section of syllabus) I will meet with each of you for about fifteen minutes so that you might:

- * clarify further your ideas
- * defend further your ideas/arguments
- * prepare for an opportunity to rewrite your essay

This activity will be required for two (2) of the four essays you will prepare for this course and, if you wish, may be done for three essays (with the exception of the final essay that will be completed during final examination week).

(10% of course grade)

- 2) I will evaluate the general **quality** of your daily participation in class discussions.

(15% of course grade).

Written Component

The written part of your course grade will be based on the following activities:

- 1) You will write **four major essays** (about 5-6 typed, double-spaced pages each) based on the course readings, our common discussions of those readings, and your understandings of the readings and discussions. These essays will be prepared outside of class. Each essay will be your response to specific questions posed by the instructor on the class meeting before the essay is to be submitted. **At least two of the first three essays may be revised and resubmitted after discussion and consultation with the instructor.** You may rewrite all three of the first three papers. If you choose to rewrite your essays, the grade you receive for the rewrite will replace the grade you received for your first paper. (**NOTE: Rewrites must be completed within one week after your discussion with the instructor.**)
(65% of course grade)
- 2) Be prepared for a daily **pop quiz** which will require that you have content knowledge of the readings assigned for that day. **(10% of course grade)**

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

(NOTE: Dates are instructor's best estimates and may be subject to change)

I. Human Being and Citizen

- September 1: Introduction to the course
3: Sophocles, *Antigone* read **ALL**
8: *Antigone*
10: *Antigone*
15: Plato, *Euthyphro* & *Apology*
17: *The Apology*
22: *Apology* & *Crito*
24: **FIRST ESSAY DUE**

II. Law and Justice: Man in the State of Nature

- September 29: Golding, *Lord of the Flies*, read **ALL**
October 1: *Lord of the Flies*
6: *Lord of the Flies*
8: Melville, *Billy Budd*, introduction
15: *Billy Budd*, Preface, Chapters 1-6
20: **FALL BREAK; NO CLASS**
22: *Billy Budd*, Chapters 7-18
27: **SECOND ESSAY DUE: BEGIN VIEWING AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE (Read Act One)**

III. Alternative Approaches to Political Life: Competing Ideologies

LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

- October 29: View video *An Enemy of the People* (read Act Two)
November 3: *An Enemy of the People* (read Act Three)
5: **THIRD ESSAY DUE**

DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM

- November 10: John Locke, selections from *Second Treatise on Government*
12: John Locke
17: John Locke
19: Adam Smith, selections from *Wealth of Nations*
24: Adam Smith
26: **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

COMMUNISM

- December 1: Karl Marx, selections
3: Karl Marx

- 8: Karl Marx
10: View: "Maquilapolis"

FINAL ESSAY DUE THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 1:20-3:30 PM