

## Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2020  
Course ID & Section #: POLSC-2-D8566  
Instructor's name: Will Meriwether  
Day/Time: 3:50-5:15 Tuesday and Thursday  
Location: DA 1  
Number of units: 3

## Instructor Contact Information

Office location: E3  
Office hours: By Appointment  
Phone number: 707-465-2370  
Email address: [william-meriwether@redwoods.edu](mailto:william-meriwether@redwoods.edu)

## Required Materials

Textbook Title: An Introduction to Political Philosophy  
Edition: 2nd Edition  
Author: Colin Bird  
ISBN: 978-1-108-43755  
Other requirements:

## Catalog Description

A course examining the key texts and political thinkers of western political thought from Plato to the present. Students will be introduced to: (1) historical and contemporary debates about the most desirable cultural values, political regimes, institutional forms, economic systems, and laws to achieve "the good life;" and (2) political theorists' answers to contentious questions about the nature of justice, freedom, and equality.

## Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Identify the core concepts and contributions of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, and Marx.
2. Compare and contrast modern political ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism, Marxism, and feminism.
3. Apply the perspectives of thinkers from different eras to contemporary political problems.

## Evaluation & Grading Policy

Final Grades will be determined by:

2 exams: 100 points each	200 points
Lesson Summary 15x 10 points each	150 points
Research Paper	100 points
Class Participation 30 points	30 points
Total points:	480 points

Grading Criteria: A=90-100% (432-480 pts), B= 80-89% (384-431 pts), C=70-79% (336-383 pts), D=60-69% (288-335 pts), F= below 59%

## Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

No Prerequisites required

## Special accommodations statement

College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please see me or contact [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library

Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

## Student Accessibility Statement and Academic Support Information

These standards are required by federal regulation. Students will have access to this course that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Course materials will include a text equivalent for all non-text elements; videos will include closed captioning, images will include alt-tags, hyperlinks will use descriptive/meaningful phrases instead of URLs and audio files will include transcripts. All text will be formatted for use with screen readers and all course materials will be understandable without the use of color.

### Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

### Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

### Exams:

There are two exams in the class, one midterm and one final exam. Each exam will be a take home exam and consist of four questions. Each question should be answered with at least 400 words and completely answer each aspect of the

question. The midterm will be assigned at the conclusion of lesson six and the final exam will occur at the end of the semester.

### **Lesson Summary:**

Each lesson is presented through a mostly Socratic method of teaching. At the conclusion of each lesson students will submit a one page word document answering three questions of their choice from the PowerPoint presentation. Students should support their answer with information from the textbook and the class discussions. These assignments will be due one week from the completion of each lesson. If any outside information is used proper citations are required.

### **Research Paper:**

The research paper will need to be between 5-7 pages (typed, double spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font, with APA citations). The title page and references page is not included in the page count. The research paper will address the following question: Due to the increased risk of extreme global weather events brought about by climate change and environmental degradation, should nations around the world return to a system of open borders?

- Things to possibly consider:
  - Redistributive economic policies
  - Ideas of economic justice
  - The role of governments to establish citizenship
  - Civilizational differences
  - Global Utilitarianism
  - The nature of climate change
  - Potential for increased warfare

### **Class Discussion:**

This class is designed to incorporate discussion and points will be based off attendance and participation in the topics of the day. It is important to arrive in class prepared (by reading the chapter before the day), and gaining information to support the topic area assigned.

### **Expectations:**

1. Show up to class on time and be prepared to participate in the lecture and discussion that day.
2. Be courteous not only to myself but to your fellow classmates. One can disagree and debate without it becoming personal.
3. Late assignments will not be accepted. There is one exception to this rule, I understand that life happens and I will offer a one day grace period for one assignment for the entire course. I am giving you the due dates for each assignment in the syllabus so you can plan accordingly.
4. No cheating, plagiarism, etc. View the school policy on academic misconduct.
5. Challenge yourself. One of the hardest things in the world to do is admit when one is wrong (I am guilty of this myself), but in order to learn we have to accept that we don't know everything and some of our preconceived ideas

may be wrong. Just as I intend to challenge you, I ask that if you feel I am wrong you have the right to challenge me. Just as I will bring facts to my discussions if you think that I am wrong bring with you facts from reputable sources not emotions to dispute me.

**Schedule (Subject to change)**

PHIL-2	DA1	3:50-5:15	
Week 1	1/21	Introduction	
	1/23	Lesson 1: What is the Purpose of Government?	
Week 2	1/28	Lesson 2: Forms of Political Criticism	
	1/30	Lesson 3: The Common Good	
Week 3	2/4	Lesson 3: The Common Good	
	2/6	Lesson 4: Utilitarianism	
Week 4	2/11	Lesson 4: Utilitarianism	
	2/13	Lesson 5: Social Contracts	
Week 5	2/18	Lesson 5: Social Contracts	
	2/20	Lesson 6: The Justification of Politics	
Week 6	2/25	Lesson 7: Property and Wealth	
	2/27	Lesson 7: Property and Wealth	
Week 7	3/3	Lesson 8: Economic Justice	
	3/5	Lesson 8: Economic Justice	
Week 8	3/10	Lesson 9: The Significance of Borders	
	3/12	Lesson 9: The Significance of Borders	

Week 9	3/17	Spring Break	
	3/19	Spring Break	
Week 10	3/24	Lesson 10: Responsibility for the Environment	
	3/26	Lesson 10: Responsibility for the Environment	
Week 11	3/31	Lesson 11: War	
	4/2	Lesson 11: War	
Week 12	4/7	Lesson 12: Liberty	
	4/9	Lesson 12: Liberty	
Week 13	4/14	Lesson 13: Democratic Rule	
	4/16	Lesson 13: Democratic Rule	
Week 14	4/21	Lesson 14: Critical Enlightenment	
	4/23	Lesson 15: Ideal Theory, Race, and Reparation	
Week 15	4/28	Battle of Algiers	
	4/30	Battle of Algiers	
Week 16	5/5	Final Exam Review	
	5/7	Open Forum	
Final Week			