

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 2801: JUSTICE AND POWER

Marquette University  
Spring 2013, MWF 1:00-1:50, WW 122

Professor Ryan Hanley

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Office Hours: M and W 12:00-1:00 PM and by appointment

**Course Description:** Justice and power are the foundations of politics; indeed it would be difficult to discuss – much less understand – politics without invoking these terms. But what exactly is justice? How do human beings know what justice is? What sorts of institutions best guarantee its preservation? So too we might ask: what is power? How should we distinguish between proper and improper uses of power? Can power be used to promote justice? Our goal in this introductory course in political philosophy is to gain greater clarity on these questions and to define with precision what is at stake in the way we answer them. Through careful study of the works of four of the most important thinkers in the Western canon, we will also cultivate the reading, writing and speaking skills necessary for further philosophical study and debate.

**Attendance and Expectations:** Attendance at every meeting is expected. Roll will be taken at each meeting and excessive absences will result in your termination from the class (see below). But students are expected to do more than simply show up; thorough preparation prior to each meeting and active participation while in class are also necessary if one hopes to master the material and receive a decent grade. In preparing for class you should read assignments with the maximum possible care. To help you prepare most effectively for class discussions I will distribute a short set of study questions on the assigned reading prior to each meeting. In class you are expected to listen carefully to the contributions of your colleagues and to engage others through your own contributions. Students can expect to be called on. Those inexperienced in or uncomfortable with talking in class are encouraged to come to see me early in the semester so that we can together develop useful strategies for effective participation.

**Requirements and Grading:** The final course grade will be comprised of six components: three in-class exams (15% each), class participation (15%), pop quiz grade average (10%), group presentation (10%), and one cumulative final exam (20%). As the course proceeds we will discuss the standards by which written work and class participation will be evaluated.

### Course Policies:

**1. Attendance.** Attendance at every meeting is expected. Roll will be taken at each meeting and excessive absences, in accord with the policy stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin (and available online at <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#attendance>), will result in the student being withdrawn from the course and assigned a final grade of “WA.” In accord with that policy, for this course “excessive absences” will be defined as more than six meetings. Students who find themselves unable to attend a meeting of the course for either legal reasons or university-sanctioned activities are encouraged to come to see me as early as possible in the semester so that we can work out a mutually-agreeable means of making up the missed material.

**2. Academic Dishonesty.** The University has a clear policy on academic dishonesty; please see <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academichonestypolicy>, which will direct you to the relevant section of the Undergraduate Bulletin. All instances and suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accord with the policy there specified.

**3. Electronic Devices.** Please note that our course has a policy on the use of electronic devices. Any device with an on-off switch – especially, but not only, smartphones and tablets and laptops – MUST be set to the off position (or, better yet, left at home) during all of our class meetings. Violations of this policy will be grounds for removal from the course. The sole exception will be

if you have a legitimate and documentable need to use such a device – in which case please see me as soon as possible. Short of that, you should bring nothing more to class than pen, paper, books and brains!

**4. Late Assignments.** Please note that assignments submitted after the due dates and times listed on this syllabus will not be accepted unless I authorize an extension in advance. This means, for our purposes, that there will be no “make-up” exams unless arranged in advance.

**5. Texts.** It is a requirement of the course that you bring your copy of the assigned text to every class meeting. If purchasing the books is impossible for financial reasons, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements. The following books are required for the course and are available at BookMarq:

Plato, *Republic*, trans. G. M. A. Grube (Hackett, 1992)  
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. H. Mansfield (Chicago, 1998)  
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. R. Tuck (Cambridge, 1996)  
Rousseau, *Major Political Writings*, trans. J. Scott (Chicago, 2012)

**Schedule of Reading and Written Assignments:** The following schedule is unlikely to change, but please know that I reserve the right to amend it if necessary. Note that class meetings will take a variety of formats, including days dedicated to discussion of readings, days dedicated to discussion of current events, days dedicated to exams, and days dedicated to group projects. We will discuss the specific formats of each of these types of meetings as the semester progresses.

Week 1 of January 14

M: Introduction  
W: *Republic*, Book I, 327a-336a (pp. 2-12)  
F: In-class assignment

Week 2 of January 21

M: No class: MLK Day  
W: *Republic*, Book I, 336b-354c (pp. 12-31)  
F: *Republic*, Book II, 357a-373e (pp. 33-49)

Week 3 of January 28

M: *Republic*, Books II-III, 373e-383c; 412a-417b (pp. 49-59; 88-93)  
W: *Republic*, Book IV, 419a-423e; 427d-445e (pp. 95-99; 102-21)  
F: *Republic*, Book V, 449a-471c (pp. 122-46)

Week 4 of February 4

M: *Republic*, Books V-VII, 471c-487a; 514a-521d (pp. 147-61; 186-93)  
W: *Republic*, Book VIII, 543a-562a (pp. 213-32)  
F: *Republic*, Books VIII-IX, 562a-592b (pp. 232-63)

Week 5 of February 11

M: *Republic*, Book X, 611b-621d (pp. 282-92)  
W: Plato and Contemporary Politics  
F: Exam #1

Week 6 of February 18

M: *Prince*, Dedicatory Letter, chs. 1-6 (pp. 3-25)  
W: *Prince*, chs. 7-12 (pp. 25-53)  
F: *Prince*, chs. 13-19 (pp. 54-82)

Week 7 of February 25

M: *Prince*, chs. 20-26 (pp. 83-105)  
W: *Leviathan*, Intro, ch. 1-6 (pp. 9-11; 13-46)

F: *Leviathan*, ch. 8-12 (pp. 50-86)

Week 8 of March 4

M: *Leviathan*, ch. 13-15 (pp. 86-111)

W: *Leviathan*, ch. 16-18 (pp. 111-29)

F: Machiavelli and Hobbes and Contemporary Politics

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 11-17

Week 9 of March 18

M: Exam #2

W: *Second Discourse*, Dedication and Preface (pp. 41-56)

F: *Second Discourse*, Part I (pp. 61-80)

Week 10 of March 25

M: *Second Discourse*, Part I (pp. 80-90)

W: *Second Discourse*, Part II (pp. 90-103)

F: No Class (Easter)

Week 11 of April 1

M: No Class (Easter)

W: Group Projects

F: Group Projects

Week 12 of April 8

M: *Second Discourse*, Part II (pp. 103-117)

W: *Social Contract* I (pp. 163-78)

F: Group Projects

Week 13 of April 15

M: *Social Contract* II (pp. 179-94)

W: *Social Contract* III (pp. 227-41)

F: *Social Contract* IV (pp. 243-49, 259-72)

Week 14 of April 22

M: Rousseau and Contemporary Politics

W: Exam #3

F: Group Projects

Week 15 of April 29

M: Group Presentations

W: Group Presentations

F: Review and Conclusion

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, MAY 6, 8:00-10:00 AM, WW 122