

PSC1012W
Politics and Values, Spring 2019

Justice and Group Relations

Monday 3:30-6:00 and Wednesday 3:30-6:00
Friday 9-10 AM or 11 AM-12 PM

Professor Samuel Goldman
Email: swgoldman@gwu.edu
Office Hours: W 2:30-3:30 PM (Ames Café) and F 2:30-3:30 (Monroe 476)

Teaching Assistant: Adam Lenton
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Course Description

Course Description: What is justice? Is justice possible in conflicts between groups? In such cases, how we decide which group to join or support? Can groups be reduced to the individuals who compose them? Or do they enjoy some kind of independent existence?

This course addresses these questions by focusing on relations among three kinds of groups: states, economic interests (or classes), and cultures. Each unit includes an introduction to theoretical explanations of group conflict and cooperation, as well as readings on justice and other normative considerations.

Course Goals:

By the time they have completed with course, students will be able to:

- 1) perform close textual analysis of classic works in the history of political thought
- 2) identify and apply just war criteria;
- 3) summarize and contrast classical liberal, socialist, and neo-liberal approaches to political economy;
- 4) identify major theories of nationalism;
- 5) become familiar with resources and techniques for primary source research;
- 6) develop a plan for independent research on a topic of political science.

Schedule and Credit Hour Policy: We will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays for *Lectures*, and on Fridays for *Discussions*. Lectures will consist of two 60-

minute sessions separated by a 20-minute break. Discussions will last for sixty minutes. In total, you will spend approximately 300 minutes per week in class.

Per accreditation standards, you should spend *at least* 100 minutes engaged in independent learning for every 50 minutes of direct or guided instruction. Thus, you should plan to devote a *minimum* of 600 minutes (ten hours) per week to reading, writing, or other preparation for P&V. Although it does not replace the reading, focused discussion with outside class counts as independent learning.

Texts: The titles listed below are available at the Eckles library, the GW bookstore, and many online vendors. A number of readings will also be included in the coursepack available at the GW bookstore.

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett, 1994)
- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War* (Columbia University Press, 2001)
- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic Books, 2006)
- Karl Marx, *Selected Writings* (Hackett, 1994).
- Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Cornell University Press, 2009)

Grading: 50% of your grade will be based on a series of two papers (25% each). You will receive detailed prompts and an explanation of my expectations well in advance of the deadlines.

25% of your grade will be based on your research proposal. You will receive detailed prompts and an explanation of my expectations well in advance of the deadline.

A further 20% of your grade will be based on class participation. This includes participation in writing/research exercises, which will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis.

A final 5% of your grade will be based on your oral presentation in a discussion session. I will distribute a signup sheet and information about my expectations for the presentations at the first class meeting.

Class Schedule

Power, War, and Justice Among States

M: January 13	Thucydides, excerpts from <i>The Peloponnesian War</i>
W: January 15	Thucydides, excerpts from <i>The Peloponnesian War</i>
F: January 17	Graham Allison, "The Thucydides Trap"

M: January 20	NO CLASS—MLK DAY
W: January 22	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Introduction, Chs. 10, 13-15, 17-18, 24, 29-30.
F: January 24	Steven Pinker, "Violence Vanquished"
M: January 27	Kenneth Waltz, <i>Man, The State, and War</i> , Chs. 1-3
W: January 29	Kenneth Waltz, <i>Man, The State, and War</i> , Chs. 4, 6; J.-J. Rousseau, "The Stag Hunt"
F: January 31	Steven Walt, "What If Realists Were In Charge?"
M: February 3	Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace", Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics"
W: February 5	Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make Of It"
F: February 7	Discussion Tom Friedman, "Foreign Affairs Big Mac I and II"
M: February 10	Walzer, <i>Just and Unjust Wars</i> , Chs. 1-5.
W: February 12	Walzer, <i>Just and Unjust Wars</i> , Chs. 6-9 Distribute Essay 1 Prompt Movie Night: <i>Eye in the Sky</i> (2016)
F: February 14	Discuss movie
M: February 17	NO CLASS—PRESIDENTS DAY
W: February 19	Introduction to Library Research—Meet in Gelman
F: February 21	Distribute and discuss research proposal assignment

Labor, Value, and Justice Among Classes

M: February 24	Review Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Ch. 1; Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> II.II Q 66, A 1, 2, 7
W: February 26	Karl Marx, "On the Jewish Question"; excerpts from Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and</i>

the Spirit of Capitalism

- F: February 28 Discussion
- M: March 2 David Hume, "Of the Jealousy of Trade"; excerpts from Alexander Hamilton, "Report on Manufactures"
- W: March 4 Adam Smith, excerpts from *The Wealth of Nations*; David Ricardo, "Of Machinery"
- F: March 6 Discussion
David Blinder, "The Free-Trade Paradox"
- Essay 1 due 9 PM.
- M: March 9 Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, 66-81, 143-144, 319-328
- W: March 11 Marx, *Selected Writings*, 469-500, 525-541
Friedrich Engels, "Review of *Capital*"
- F: March 13 Terry Eagleton, "Was Marx Right?"
- M: March 16 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
- W: March 18 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
- F: March 20 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
- M: March 23 Mont Pelerin Society Statement of Aims; F.A. Hayek "Kinds of Order in Society"; Milton Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits"
- W: March 25 John Rawls, excerpts from *A Theory of Justice*

Distribute Essay 2 Prompt

Movie Night: *Wall Street* (1987)
- F: March 27 Discussion

Culture, Nationalism, and Justice Among Peoples

- M: March 30 Claude Leví-Strauss, *Elementary Structures of Kinship*, Chs. 1-2; Clifford Geertz, "The Impact of the

Concept of Culture”

- W: April 1 Susan Moller Okin, “Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?”
- F: April 3 NO CLASS—FACULTY CONFERENCES
- Essay 2 due 9 PM
- M: April 6 Ernst Renan, “What is a Nation?”; John Stuart Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, Ch. 16; Max Weber, “Ethnic Groups”
- W: April 8 Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (all)
- F: April 10 Discussion
Jonathan Haidt, “When and Why Nationalism Beats Globalism”
- M: April 13 Hannah Arendt, excerpts from *The Origins of Totalitarianism*
- W: April 15 Frantz Fanon, excerpts from *Black Skin, White Masks* and *The Wretched of the Earth*.
- F: April 17 Discussion
- M: April 20 Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History”; Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations”
- W: April 22 Keynote Lecture
- F April 24 Discussion
- M: April 27 Research proposal workshop (proposal draft due in class)
- M: May 6 Research Proposal Due
11:59 P

ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK POLICIES

1) Attendance at lectures, discussion sessions, and other events is mandatory. You cannot succeed in P&V unless you attend class regularly and punctually (we start at the scheduled time).

Since conflicts can arise even in the best-planned schedule, however, each student is permitted *one* unexcused absence per semester. Your participation grade will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade for every additional unexcused absence (e.g., B+ to B).

2) Absences from class will be excused in cases of illness, family emergency, and religious observance. Extracurricular commitments such as internships or club meetings are not grounds for absence.

In cases of illness or family emergency, I may request documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) to confirm the reason that you were unable to attend class. If you are unable to attend class due to unforeseen circumstances, it is *your responsibility* to contact me to explain your absence **WITHIN 24 HOURS** of the class you missed. If you do not get in touch, your participation grade will be docked according to the policy outlined above.

On movie nights, absences will be excused in cases of conflict with other courses (e.g. evening labs). If you cannot attend the movie due to a conflict with another course, you are responsible for locating and watching it on your own before that week's discussion meeting.

3) Late work will be docked one letter grade as soon as the deadline passes, with an additional 1/3 of a letter grade deducted for each day late thereafter.

If you feel unable to complete your work for any reason, it is *your responsibility* to contact me **IN ADVANCE** to explain your situation and discuss possible solutions. Once the deadline has passed, penalties will apply automatically.

4) Extensions will be granted in cases of serious illness, family emergency, and religious holidays. In cases of illness or family emergency, I may request documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) to confirm the reason that you were unable to complete your work on time.

5) University Policy on Religious Holidays:

1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examination.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices—laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc.—is not permitted during P&V meetings. Although they may seem helpful, studies show that these devices interfere with learning. Rather than engaging in stenography,

focus on *listening* to me and your classmates, taking note of only the most important ideas or issues. You can check your phone during breaks or after class.

I will make exceptions to the electronic devices rule in documented cases of disability. For more information about accommodations, see the section below on Support for Students Outside the Classroom or consult me privately.

COMMUNICATION

E-mail will be my primary method of communication with you outside of class.

Below you'll find a list of e-mail policies:

- You are responsible for any information that I send to the class or you personally by email. So be sure to check your inbox regularly—at least once a day.
- I will make every effort to respond to any message you send within 24 hours. That said, you should not count on an immediate answer to your questions. So when you're facing a deadline, try to plan ahead!
- Feel free to ask questions about any text we've read, expectations for assignments, or anything we've discussed in class. *I will not read advance drafts of your essays.* However, I will comment on a brief excerpt (not more than a paragraph), such as a thesis statement.
- Finally, do not let e-mail substitute for class participation. If you have a question, try to ask it in class so everyone can benefit, instead of waiting until you get home to e-mail me.

In addition to email, I hold regular office hours. Feel free to drop by to talk about P&V, other academic issues, life at GW, or anything else that you'd like to talk about. I am also usually available to chat briefly after classes.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I uphold the GW Code of Academic Integrity, *though students should be aware that more severe penalties will be assessed in this class: Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in **failure of the course**.*

The Code states: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." For the remainder of the code, see:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to:

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UC)

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. 202-994-5300

Services for students include:

- 1) crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- 2) confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals.

SECURITY

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.