

MIGHT AND RIGHT AMONG NATIONS
CTI 335 / GOV 351J / EUS 348
Fall 2012
MWF 2-3, UTC 4.124
Unique Numbers 33820, 36377, 38683

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Office Hours: M 3-4:30, Th 9-10:30 and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study of major alternative approaches, elaborated by the greatest political theorists, to the question of the moral character of international relations.

The basic aim of the course is twofold: 1) to gain a better understanding of what kind of justice and law exists among nations; and 2) to gain a better understanding of what justice itself means, in human relations, especially as its nature is revealed in the international arena and in light of the possibility of war.

We will examine the original, foundational philosophic arguments for: the classical republican struggle for and against empire (Thucydides); Christian Just War theory (Aquinas and Vitoria); Islamic *Jihad* Theory (the *Koran* and *Hadith*; Shaybani, Alfarabi, Avicenna, Ibn Khaldun); the moral supremacy of independent national sovereignty (Hobbes); globalizing moral community achieved through commercialization (Montesquieu); and world legal order achieved through international legal organization (Kant).

We will try to uncover the hidden philosophic foundations of our contemporary ways of thinking, and confront our assumptions with challenges from earlier, alien ways of conceiving the world. While we will not forget contemporary issues, we will try to view our own immediate situation from a liberating distance. Our first point of reference will be the dramatic presentation of the Peloponnesian War by the Greek historian Thucydides—a moral as well as military struggle pitting the imperialism of one of history's greatest democracies (Athens) against the anti-imperialism of one of the most conservative and pious aristocracies in history (Sparta).

FOR CLASS MEETINGS: The lectures and discussion sections will proceed mainly by way of close textual analysis. Make sure you do each reading carefully before coming to class. Bring your copy of the assigned text to every class so as to be able to follow the lectures and discussions. In addition, please bring an index card to every class for pop quizzes.

TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE CLASS. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT TEXTING DURING CLASS, IT WILL BE COUNTED AS AN ABSENCE. USE OF LAPTOPS IN CLASS IS NOT PERMITTED! IF YOU HAVE A COMPUTER WITH YOU, IT SHOULD BE CLOSED. ACCOMODATIONS WILL BE MADE ONLY FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING RUBRIC:

In this class, you will have an option to write a paper, if you choose. Each Monday, I will announce a paper topic or two, which, if you choose to write it, will be due the following Monday. You are not required to write a paper, and may instead be graded on the two tests, attendance and participation, and readings quizzes.

To provide extra incentive to write the paper, the effect of the paper on your final grade can only be positive. At the end of the semester, if your average would have been higher without the paper, it will be your final grade for the class.

With Optional Paper:

- 30%—Final Exam, closed book, held in the final exam period. The exam will consist of essays selected at random from study questions handed out near the end of term. The exam will cover material from the entire term.
- 15%—Mid-term closed book exam on Thucydides, administered in class Friday October 14, on questions chosen at random from study questions handed out two weeks before.
- 20%—Optional paper on topic to be announced in class. Papers will be graded both on substance and on the quality of the writing.
- 15%—Attendance and participation. Attendance is required at all lectures. Each absence after the first, not excused by a doctor's note, will subtract 10% from your attendance grade (which is equal to 1.5% of your overall final grade). If you have more than 10 absences total, it will result in automatic failure of the course.
- 10%—Unannounced closed book quizzes, administered at the beginning of class on the reading due for that day.

Without Optional Paper:

- 40%—Final Exam, closed book, held in the final exam period. The exam will consist of essays selected at random from study questions handed out near the end of term. The exam will cover material from the entire term.
- 30%—Mid-term closed book exam on Thucydides, administered in class Friday October 14, on questions chosen at random from study questions handed out two weeks before.
- 20%—Attendance and participation. Attendance is required at all lectures. Each absence after the first, not excused by a doctor's note, will subtract 10% from your attendance grade (which is equal to 1.5% of your overall final grade). If you have more than 10 absences total, it will result in automatic failure of the course.
- 10%—Unannounced closed book quizzes, administered at the beginning of class on the reading due for that day.

GRADING POLICY

We will use the plus / minus grading system for this class. Quizzes, tests, and attendance will be graded numerically. Papers and participation in discussion sections will be given letter grades. In order to calculate your final grade, these will be translated into number grades as follows:

A: 96; A-: 91; B+: 88; B: 84.5; B-: 81; C+: 78; C: 74.5; C-: 71; D: 65; F: 30

Final grades are calculated numerically, then translated into a letter grade using the following scale:

A: 93-100; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-90; B: 83-87; B-: 80-83; C+: 77-80; C: 73-77; C-: 70-73; D: 60-70; F: below 60.

Papers will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. For individual help with paper writing, please come to our office hours any time or visit the Undergraduate Writing Center, info at <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

University Honor Code: The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>, 471-6259.

No laptops may be used in class unless required by a student with disabilities.

REQUIRED TEXTS (be sure to get the correct editions and translations!)

- The Landmark Thucydides*, Simon & Schuster, ISBN# 0684827905 Robert B. Strassler, ed.
The translation is not always accurate, and key passages will be found in accurate translation in the photocopied booklet (see below).
- Vitoria, *Political Writings*, Cambridge, ISBN# 052136714x Pagden & Lawrence, eds.
- Thomas Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, Cambridge, ISBN# 0521437806 Tuck and Silverthorne, eds.
- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Cambridge, ISBN# 0521369746 Anne Cohler et al., eds. and trans.
- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Harper, ISBN# 0061311596 H. J. Paton, trans.; and *Political Writings*, Cambridge, ISBN# 0521398371, H. Reiss, ed.
- Course booklet for GOV 335M available for purchase at Co-op. Includes passages from Thucydides in accurate, literal translation, as well as excerpts from Thomas Aquinas, Spinoza, Rousseau, and *The Federalist*, and readings on the theory of *jihad* in Islamic thought.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Wednesday, August 29: Introduction – no reading
 Friday, August 31: Thucydides, I.1-23
 Monday, September 3: Thucydides, I.24-55
 Wednesday, September 5: Continued
 Friday, September 7: Thucydides, I.56 – the end of Book I
 Monday, September 10: Continued
 Wednesday, September 12: Continued
 Friday, September 14: Thucydides, II.1-46 (you may skim II.1-22)
 Monday, September 17: Continued
 Wednesday, September 19: Thucydides, II.47-65
 Friday, September 21: Thucydides, III.1-50 (you should also skim II.47-101)
 Monday, September 24: Thucydides, III.51-85
 Wednesday, September 26: Continued
 Friday, September 28: Thucydides, IV.1-41, 58-65, 78-88, 102-end; V.1-26
 Monday, October 1: Thucydides, V.84-end
 Wednesday, October 3: Continued
 Friday, October 5: Continued
 Monday, October 8: Thucydides, VI (all)
 Wednesday, October 10: Thucydides VII (all)
 Friday, October 12: Continued
 Monday, October 15: **Midterm Exam**
 Wednesday, October 17: Aquinas, Excerpts (in course booklet)
 Friday, October 19: Continued
 Monday, October 22: Vitoria, Letter to Miguel de Arcos 8 Nov. 1534; *On the American Indians*; *On the Law of War*, and a brief excerpt from *On Civil Power*—all in *Political Writings*, pp. 21-22, 250-251, 265-272, and 277-333
 Wednesday, October 24: Continued
 Friday, October 26: Jihad Theory reading (in course booklet)
 Monday, October 29: Continued
 Wednesday, October 31: Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, 1-3
 Friday, November 2: Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, 4-6
 Monday, November 5: Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, 13
 Wednesday, November 7: Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Preface and Books I-III entire, IX-X entire
 Friday, November 9: Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Book IV, chaps. 1-5; V chaps. 1-7; VII chaps. 1-5, 8-17; VIII chaps. 1-7, 16-17
 Monday, November 12: Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Bk. XI chs. 1-8; XII chs. 1-4 and 12-13; XV chs. 1-9; XIX ch. 27
 Wednesday, November 14: Continued
 Friday, November 16: Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, XX chs. 1-13; XXI chs. 14 and 21; XXIV chs. 10-11; XXV chs. 9-12; XXVI chs. 1 and 20; AND *The Federalist* No. 6 (in booklet)
 Monday, November 19: Continued
 Wednesday, November 21: NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING
 Friday, November 23: Thanksgiving break
 Monday, November 26: Roussaeu, *Government of Poland* (in course booklet)

Wednesday, November 28: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Introduction and Parts 1 and 2

Friday, November 30: Continued

Monday, December 3: Kant, *Political Writings*, 73-130, 164-171, 41-53*

Wednesday, December 5: Continued

Friday, December 7: Final Class

Saturday, December 15 2-5PM: Final Exam

* I recommend doing the readings in the listed order, but it is not absolutely necessary: Each part can stand alone.

POLICIES

Excused Absences: You can be excused for missing a class if you have a valid reason and show me appropriate documentation. A “valid reason” may be illness (bring a doctor’s note), a death in the family, or religious observance.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Any violation of the University’s Honor Code will be treated extremely seriously. Specific rules may be found on the Registrar’s web site at: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/app/gi09.appc03.html>

See especially Section 11-802.

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