



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## HUM 210 L00.A

### Politics and Law in Western Civilization

#### Spring 2019

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Thursday 1:30-4:00pm  
**Room Number:** E210

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Brandon Seitzler  
**Instructor Email:** bseitzler@criswell.edu  
**Instructor Phone:** 214-818-1309  
**Instructor Office Hours:** By appointment

#### Course Description and Prerequisites

An exploration of Politics and Law from the Greek, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, and Modern periods.

#### Course Objectives

Students will learn to critically analyze themes in political thought through the centuries. This course uses excerpts from many classic texts. The course will familiarize students with the ideas contained in these texts. By the end of the semester students will be able to summarize, compare and apply the ideas in these texts to contemporary political questions.

#### Required Textbooks

Arguing About Political Philosophy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Edited by Matt Zwolinski. ISBN: 978-0-415-53582-3.

#### Course Requirements and Assignments

- **Attendance and Participation (15%)** – This is a very participation-heavy course. If you are not in class by 1:45pm you will be counted absent for that day.
- **Discussion Questions to Canvas (15%)** – Each week students will post three questions to Canvas for others to consider before class. Questions must be posted to Canvas by noon on Wednesdays. One of these questions must be related to scripture. No late questions will be accepted.
- **Response Essays (15%)** – While all students are expected to participate in class discussion each week, students must choose three weeks for which they will write a 350-word response to a question asked by a fellow student on Canvas. Essays are due at 1:30pm on Thursdays. Essays submitted after that will be penalized one letter grade per day. 20% of this grade is you discussing your response with the class. Therefore, if you are not present, to present your answer, the highest grade possible for the assignment is an 80%. You will select the weeks for which you write your response essays on the first day of class.
- **Application Essays (25%)** – Students will write an application essay on five readings. Each assignment will apply the ideas from one text to a current political question, issue or public policy. Each short essay

must be 500 words, double-spaced, and either Times New Roman, 12-pt font. Essays are due within the first 15 minutes of class. Essays submitted after that will be penalized one letter grade per day. 20% of this grade is you discussing your essay with the class. Therefore, if you are not present, to present your answer, the highest grade possible for the assignment is an 80%. You will select the weeks for which you write your application essays on the first day of class.

- **2 Exams (15% each)**
- Additional in-class quizzes and assignments will not count toward your final grade.

## Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

## Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

## Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## **Resources and Support**

Canvas and CAMS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with CAMS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [bstifle@criswell.edu](mailto:bstifle@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through Dr. Jeff Campbell, Dean of Students, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Reading due / Class topic	Application essays due	Response essays due
<b>Week 1</b> January 24	Course Introduction What's your political philosophy?		
<b>Week 2</b> January 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1a. Political Authority – i. Social Contract Theory and its Critics (<i>Hobbes, Axelrod, and Locke</i>)</li> </ul>	Omar	Omar Jesse
<b>Week 3</b> February 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1a. Political Authority – i. Social Contract Theory and its Critics (<i>Hume, Rothbard, Held, and Mills</i>)</li> </ul>	Givemore Jesse	Caitlyn
<b>Week 4</b> February 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1a. Political Authority – ii. Obedience to Authority</li> </ul>	Fred Jesse	Jesse Givemore
<b>Week 5</b> February 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1b. Rights</li> </ul>	Fred Jesse	Jesse
<b>Week 6</b> February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1c. Justice</li> </ul>	Givemore Caitlyn	Caitlyn
<b>Week 7</b> March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1d. Political Liberalism</li> </ul>	Omar James	Omar Fred
<b>Week 8</b> March 14	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>		
<b>Week 9</b> March 21	<b>Take-home midterm due</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. Political Economy</li> </ul>	Caitlyn Givemore	James

		James	
<b>Week 10</b> March 28	• 2b. Property Rights	Omar Jesse	Caitlyn Omar
<b>Week 11</b> April 4	• 2c. Distributive Justice	Caitlyn Givemore	Fred
<b>Week 12</b> April 11	• 2d. Freedom	Omar Fred Jesse	Givemore
<b>Week 13</b> April 18	• 2e. Equality	Caitlyn James	James
<b>Week 14</b> April 25	• 3a. Democratic Deliberation and Voting	James Givemore Omar	Fred
<b>Week 15</b> May 2	• 3b. Immigration	James Fred	James
<b>Week 16</b> May 9	• 3c. Global Distributive Justice	Caitlyn Fred	Givemore
<b>Week 17</b> May 16	No Class – <b>Take-home exam due</b>		

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*