



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## PHI/POL 391

### Political Theory

### Fall 2020

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Tuesdays, 8:00 – 10:45 AM

**Room Number:** E-205

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Wooddell

**Instructor Email:** jwooddell@criswell.edu (Grader Parker Stilley: stilley15649@student.criswell.edu)

**Instructor Phone:** 214.818.1336

**Instructor Office Hours:** By appointment (call or email)

#### Course Description and Prerequisites

This course addresses issues that are foundational to the study of politics, including, but not limited to, political legitimacy, justice, liberty, equality, and citizenship. The course places an emphasis on why, when, and how individuals choose to act collectively.

#### Course Objectives

1. Analyze and process the language of political theory
2. Investigate some of the major historical and contemporary thinkers, principles, ideas, and theories in the field of political theory
3. Present critical evaluation and support one's own conclusion relating to one or more positions in the field of political theory
4. Link some areas of political theory's concern to contemporary life
5. Acquire an enhanced appreciation for the value of political theory as related to Christian faith

#### Required Textbooks

Matt Zwonlinski, ed. *Arguing About Political Philosophy*, 2d ed. New York, NY: Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-415-53582-3

#### Recommended Reading

The American *Declaration of Independence* and *Constitution*

*The Federalist Papers*

*The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel*

Israel's *The Law of Return*

*The Hamas Charter*

Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*

Plato, *The Republic*

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

1. Attendance
  - a. Description: Come to class on time and stay for the duration of each class period
  - b. Explanation: Attendance is taken each class period. Students may miss class twice with no penalty. Missing a third time results in lowering the final course average one full letter grade. Missing a fourth time results in the student failing the course.
  - c. Percentage: Attendance does not count as a percentage of the final grade, but instead counts as described in 1.b.
2. Participation
  - a. Description: Participate in classroom discussion each class period
  - b. Explanation: Zero participation equals a numerical grade of 0. A one-word answer every now and again equals a grade of 60. Short phrases exhibiting little evidence of thought or reading equal 70. Longer sentences with some thought and some evidence of reading equal 70. Well-thought-out observations with several sentences of elaboration and showing evidence of reading equal 80. Clear, well-articulated discussion with evidence of full reading equal 90. Evidence of having mastered the material and having read beyond the requirements, along with insightful questions and answers, equal 100.
  - c. Percentage: **10%**. Students will receive a numerical grade (based on 2.b.), which will be factored into their overall final course grade.
3. Helping to Lead Classroom Discussion
  - a. Description: Four times per semester students will help lead classroom discussion
  - b. Explanation: By the second week of class, the professor will inform students which dates they should expect to lead classroom discussion. The student leading discussion should bring observations and questions from that week's readings, and should be prepared to share those questions and observations, and to reply thoughtfully to the thoughts and questions of others (including the professor) in the class. The grade for each time leading is based on how well prepared the student is, and how clearly and thoughtfully he or she leads and responds to classroom discussion.
  - c. Percentage: **20%**. The average of these four items constitutes 20% of the final course grade.
4. Reading
  - a. Description: Read the assigned material
  - b. Explanation: Tell the professor at the end of the semester what percentage of the reading you did.
  - c. Percentage: **10%**. The number from 3.b., which students report to the professor, becomes the number factored in for this percentage of the grade
5. Weekly Summaries
  - a. Description: Short (2-4 pages double-spaced) summary of each week's reading
  - b. Explanation: Students will submit these each week in class. Simple summary in the student's own words is sufficient. No analysis is necessary. This is a "pass/fail" assignment. Doing the assignment earns a grade of 100 each week. Not doing it earns a grade of 0.
  - c. Percentage: **20%**. All weekly summaries will be averaged together at the end of the term, and that average will count as 20% of the student's final grade.

## 6. Research/Position Paper

- a. Description: 8-12 page essay showing good research and taking a personal position on a topic relevant to the course (check with professor before moving forward).
- b. Explanation: There is only one of these assignments, and it is due on final exam day (no other final exam will take place). Proof for careless errors, use Turabian style, and the number of pages applies only to the body of the essay. Include a title page, contents page, and works cited page. Use at least 3 websites, 3 books, and 3 journal articles, in addition to the assigned textbook(s).
- c. Percentage: **40%**. The grade for this assignment will be factored in as 40% of your final grade.

## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

**Recording devices, recording, use of technology, and social media:** Students may not take pictures, video recordings, or audio recordings of anyone or anything course, class, or classroom related without prior, written approval from the professor. Students may not post or share anything course, class, or classroom-related on any sort of social or other media without prior, written permission from the professor and any student(s) who might be affected.

During class please silence, and use only for class purposes, the following sorts of devices: computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone, smart watch, ear buds, headphones, Bluetooth, or any other device typically considered electronic or “technology.”

**Disruption:** The professor may require a student to leave class for any reason *if the professor believes* the student poses a safety threat, is being disrespectful, or is being a distraction to the professor or other students.

### All written assignments:

- Typed, not handwritten
- 1” margins
- If notes are used, use footnotes (not endnotes or parenthetical references)
- Use parenthetical references for Scripture
- 12 pt. Calibri or Times New Roman font (only one font style throughout document, including footnotes and page numbers)
- Double spacing
- No subtle margin or spacing increases or decreases
- Hard copies must be stapled in upper left corner; no special bindings
- Printed on one side of the paper only
- Proof-read, or have someone proof-read, your work (no careless errors: i.e., grammar, spelling, form, style, punctuation, etc.). Read your work slowly and out loud in order to edit effectively.
- Students are encouraged to read Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style* to help improve their writing
- Number of pages required applies only to the body of the essay (not any title page, contents page, or bibliography/works cited page)
- First person preferred (if not overused)
- Avoid unnecessary use of passive voice

## 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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment**

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **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 instructor, 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 Supports**

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS 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 SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@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](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Students must read assignments *prior* to coming to class each week.

Week	Date(s)	Assignment
1	8/18	Course Introduction
2	8/25	Zwolinski through page 50
3	9/1	Zwolinski 51 – 108
4	9/8	Zwolinski 109 – 152
5	9/15	Zwolinski 153 – 180
6	9/22	Zwolinski 181 – 238
7	9/29	Zwolinski 239 - 288
8	10/6	Zwolinski 289 – 354
9	10/13	Zwolinski 355 – 388
10	10/20	Zwolinski 389 – 442
11	10/27	Zwolinski 443 – 504
12	11/3	Zwolinski 505 – 578
13	11/10	Zwolinski 579 – 620
14	11/17	Zwolinski 621 -662
	11/24	Thanksgiving Break Week: <b>No Class</b>
15	12/1	Zwolinski 663 – 711
16	12/8	<b>Final Exam Day – Final Essay Due</b>

**NOTE:** The professor may add, delete, or change any information in this document (except the course description) with adequate notice given to students. Students are responsible for any information missed due to absence and/or due to not checking their email daily.



## On-Campus Course Syllabus

### ADDENDUM FOR FA-20

PHI/POL 391

### Political Theory

In the event that Criswell College should close the campus to on-campus classes during the FA-20 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, calendar, and attendance requirements from the syllabus for this course are replicated below. Notes and changes to the information in syllabus are highlighted. Information that is no longer relevant is indicated with a ~~strike through the font~~ and *replacement or new information is placed in italics*.

### Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Attendance [In the event of cancelling on-campus classes, attendance will be required during the normal class time via live video w/Zoom or a similar platform.]
  - a. Description: Come to class on time and stay for the duration of each class period
  - b. Explanation: Attendance is taken each class period. Students may miss class twice with no penalty. Missing a third time results in lowering the final course average one full letter grade. Missing a fourth time results in the student failing the course.
  - c. Percentage: Attendance does not count as a percentage of the final grade, but instead counts as described in 1.b.
2. Participation [In the event of cancelling on-campus classes, participation will be required during the normal class time via live video w/Zoom or a similar platform.]
  - a. Description: Participate in classroom discussion each class period
  - b. Explanation: Zero participation equals a numerical grade of 0. A one-word answer every now and again equals a grade of 60. Short phrases exhibiting little evidence of thought or reading equal 70. Longer sentences with some thought and some evidence of reading equal 70. Well-thought-out observations with several sentences of elaboration and showing evidence of reading equal 80. Clear, well-articulated discussion with evidence of full reading equal 90. Evidence of having mastered the material and having read beyond the requirements, along with insightful questions and answers, equal 100.
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observations and questions from that week's readings, and should be prepared to share those questions and observations, and to reply thoughtfully to the thoughts and questions of others (including the professor) in the class. The grade for each time leading is based on how well prepared the student is, and how clearly and thoughtfully he or she leads and responds to classroom discussion.

- c. Percentage: **20%**. The average of these four items constitutes 20% of the final course grade.

#### 4. Reading

- a. Description: Read the assigned material
- b. Explanation: Tell the professor at the end of the semester what percentage of the reading you did.
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#### 5. Weekly Summaries

- a. Description: Short (2-4 pages double-spaced) summary of each week's reading
- b. Explanation: Students will submit these each week in class. **[In the event on-campus classes are not held, summaries should be emailed to the professor before class time each week.]** Simple summary in the student's own words is sufficient. No analysis is necessary. This is a "pass/fail" assignment. Doing the assignment earns a grade of 100 each week. Not doing it earns a grade of 0.
- c. Percentage: **20%**. All weekly summaries will be averaged together at the end of the term, and that average will count as 20% of the student's final grade.

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- a. Description: 8-12 page essay showing good research and taking a personal position on a topic relevant to the course (check with professor before moving forward).
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- c. Percentage: **40%**. The grade for this assignment will be factored in as 40% of your final grade.

### Class Attendance

#### **No changes to this section**

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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

### Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification

**If on-campus classes cease, and since attendance and participation will happen remotely by video via Zoom or some other similar platform, students' identity will be verified by students using the video aspect of the platform. This will allow the professor to see whether the student logged on actually is the student. During class, students should leave their video on (except during any breaks).**



## Course Outline/Calendar

### No changes to this section

Students must read assignments *prior* to coming to class each week.

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