PO65502: Wednesday 2-4:30, McGuinn 223  
Grayson Gilmore (gilmoreg@bc.edu)   
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 to 2:30pm, Carney 234

## The Question of Justice

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to an important – and perhaps the fundamental – theme of political philosophy: What is justice? We seek to develop not a *theory* of justice, but an appreciation of the *problem* of justice, which hopefully will be the basis of continued reflection in our lives. Accordingly, instead of offering a survey of political philosophy, we will place considerable emphasis on historical, political, and literary works that show the problem of justice emerging out of deliberations about the right course of action, and that raise and explore such questions as: What is the place of justice in the economy of human life? Is justice more important than personal or national interest? Is the place of justice different in foreign affairs than in domestic affairs? Do we have reason to think that justice will prevail in the world?

## Required Texts

* Plato, *Gorgias*, Cornell University Press.
* Thucydides, *The Landmark Thucydides*, Free Press.
* Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Cambridge University Press
* Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*, Hackett Publishing Company.
* Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, Fordham University Press.
* Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *First and Second Discourses*, St. Martin’s Press.

Please obtain the exact editions of each of these texts – we will be reading from them in class and it is important that everyone have the same translation and page numbers. The only possible exception to this is the *Leviathan* – if you already have a different edition let me know and I will tell you if it will work or not.

## Course Requirements

Your grade will have three components:

1. Three 1500-word interpretive essays (worth 20%, 25%, and 30% of the grade). These papers will be on topics to be announced. Papers will lose 3 points out of 100 for each 24 hours that they are late.
2. Your contribution to the seminar (worth 25%).
3. Six 500-word reading responses (**two for each of the three parts of the course**). These will be graded as either Plus (+), Satisfactory (S), or Minus (–). Each grade of + will add one point to your final grade and each grade of – will subtract one point. An S will not change the final grade. These papers must be emailed to me at [gilmoreg@bc.edu](mailto:gilmoreg@bc.edu) by NOON THE DAY BEFORE we discuss the relevant assignment in class (that is, a paper commenting on Wednesday’s assignment is due by noon on Tuesday). They are to be your preliminary response to the assignment before we discuss it in class. I may ask you to comment on your paper in class, so you might want to bring a hard copy with you. Failure to do enough of the papers will result in a subtraction of 2 points of the final grade for each paper not completed.

Finally, since the class meets only once a week, more than one absence in the class will lower your grade. I am of course willing to make exceptions for genuine emergencies.

This seminar is writing intensive and the *quality* of your writing will greatly affect your grade. If you have trouble writing clear, grammatical, and well-organized papers, you should take advantage of the Connors Family Learning Center’s writing assistance program. Also, if English is not your first language, the Connors Center has special resources to help you with your papers.   
Information is available at: (<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/writing.html>)

Plagiarism (unattributed use of the thoughts and words of others) in a paper will result in an automatic *F for the course* and additional disciplinary action recommended by the College. You should review the University’s statement on Academic Integrity and take the Political Science Department’s Academic Integrity Quiz. The relevant websites are:

* <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity.html>
* <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz.html>

## Classroom Policies

A few simple rules:

* You will not be allowed to use laptops.
* Audio recording is allowed as long as you obtain prior permission from me.
* Eating, drinking, etc. should be saved for the break.

## Office Hours, Email, etc.

My office hours are Mondays, 12:30 to 2:30pm, or by appointment, in Carney 234. Please feel free to stop by my office as often as you’d like. The best way to reach me outside of office hours is through email at [gilmoreg@bc.edu](mailto:gilmoreg@bc.edu).

## Schedule of Reading **Part I**

* January 16 Introduction
* January 23 Plato, *Gorgias*, 447a-461b.
* January 30 Plato, *Gorgias*, 461b-481b.
* February 6 Plato, *Gorgias*, 481b-502d.
* February 13 Plato, *Gorgias*, 502d-end.
* February 18 **1st Long paper due via email by noon.**

### Part II

* February 20 Thucydides, 1.1-138
* February 27 Thucydides, 1.139-146, 2.1-9, 34-66, *Gettysburg Address* (handout)
* March 6 **Spring Break – no classes.**
* March 13 Thucydides, 2.2-6, 71-78, 3.1-69
* March 20 Thucydides, 4.58-65, 6.1-88
* March 25 **2nd Long paper due via email by noon.**
* March 27 Thucydides 3.70-85, 5.84-116

### Part III

* April 3 Hobbes, *Leviathan* Epistle Dedicatory, Introduction, VI, X, XIII XIV,

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* April 10 *Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, selections
* April 17 Kant, *Toward Perpetual Peace*,

Rousseau, *The Plan for Perpetual Peace* (handout)

* April 24 Rousseau, *First Discourse*
* May 1 Review and conclusion. **3rd Long paper due in class.**