

MIGHT AND RIGHT AMONG NATIONS

CTI 335 / GOV 335M / EUS 348

Fall 2011

MWF 2-3, UTC 4.124

Unique Numbers 33820, 36377, 38683

Dr. Erik Dempsey

Office phone: 512-471-6649

Email: ed6335@mail.utexas.edu

Office Hours: MW 10 – 11:30 in Waggener 401B and by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Laurie Graham

Email: l.taylor.graham@gmail.com

Office hours: M 3-4 in Batts 1.116 and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: There are two options for fulfilling the requirements to this course, of which you must choose one by Friday, August 26.

OPTION ONE—MID-TERM EXAM OPTION

- 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.
- 25%—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 (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 2% of your overall final grade). This includes Fridays when discussion sections meet!
- 10%—Closed book quizzes. On days when there are discussions, there will be no lecture, but a quiz will be administered in UTC 4.124.
- 5%—Pop quizzes administered during lectures.

OPTION TWO—PAPER/DISCUSSION OPTION

- 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.
- 40%—Two short analytical/interpretative essays (each about three pages, or 1500 words maximum) on topics to be assigned. They will be turned in at the beginning of discussion sections on Friday, October 14 and Friday, November 18. Late papers penalized 10% per calendar day (which is equal to 2% of your overall final grade).
- 15%—Attendance (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).
- 10%—Participation in discussion sections, which will meet on the days listed below.
- 5%—Pop quizzes administered during lectures.

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.

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 24: Introduction – no reading
- Friday, August 26: Thucydides, I.1-23 (we will arrange discussion sections during this class)
- Monday, August 29: Thucydides, I.24-55
- Wednesday, August 31: Continued
- Friday, September 2: DISCUSSIONS
- Monday, September 5: Thucydides, I.56 – end
- Wednesday, September 7: Continued
- Friday, September 9: Thucydides, II.1-46 (you may skim II.1-22)
- Monday, September 12: Continued
- Wednesday, September 14: Thucydides, II.47-65
- Friday, September 16: DISCUSSIONS
- Monday, September 19: Thucydides, III.1-50 (you should also skim II.47-101)
- Wednesday, September 21: Continued
- Friday, September 23: Thucydides, III.51-85
- Monday, September 26: Thucydides, IV.1-41, 58-65, 78-88, 102-end; V.1-26
- Wednesday, September 28: Thucydides, V.84-end
- Friday, September 30: DISCUSSIONS
- Monday, October 3: Continued
- Wednesday, October 5: Continued
- Friday, October 7: Continued
- Monday, October 10: Thucydides, VI-VII (selections to be given out in class)
- Wednesday, October 12: Continued
- Friday, October 14: Midterm exam in class / DISCUSSIONS*
- Monday, October 17: Aquinas, Excerpts (in course booklet – you may skim pages 17-29)
- Wednesday, October 19: 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
- Friday, October 21: Continued
- Monday, October 24: Jihad theory readings (in course booklet)
- Wednesday, October 26: Continued
- Friday, October 28: DISCUSSIONS

Monday, October 31: Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, 1-6, 13
Wednesday, November 2: Continued
Friday, November 4: Continued
Monday, November 7: Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Preface and Books I-III entire; IV, chaps. 1-5; V chaps. 1-7; VII chaps. 1-5, 8-17; VIII chaps. 1-7, 16-17; IX-X entire.
Wednesday, November 9: Continued
Friday, November 11: Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Bk. XI chs. 1-8; XII chs. 1-4 and 12-13; XV chs. 1-9; XIX ch. 27
Monday, November 14: 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).
Wednesday, November 16: Continued
Friday, November 18: DISCUSSIONS*
Monday, November 21: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Introduction and Parts 1 and 2
Wednesday, November 23: No class – Happy Thanksgiving!
Friday, November 25: THANKSGIVING BREAK
Monday, November 28: Kant, *Political Writings*, 41-53, 73-130, 164-171
Wednesday, November 30: Continued
Friday, December 2: Final Class

* Paper due at the beginning of discussion section for those who do the paper option.

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.

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