

SURVEY OF POLITICAL THEORY

PSC 200-002 Fall 2009

Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:45

WRI C301

Kelly Lutz, Instructor

WRI A220

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 8am-8:30am; Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:30, and by appointment.

Course Description: The history of political thought is defined by important and perennial questions about how we ought to live both as individuals and citizens. This course will introduce students to the ways in which Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke approached and considered such questions. Through careful reading of subtle and sometimes difficult works, we will uncover how these thinkers analyze politics and how they respond to questions such as, what is justice? What defines the good or healthy society? What are our duties? What is the proper aim of law, and what is the basis of its authority?

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will learn how to read original texts in order to consider some of the most profound moral, political, and economic ideas in Western political philosophy. Through several written assignments, students will gain experience at writing college-level academic papers. Students will become familiar with the differences between ancient and modern approaches to the study of politics. Students will consider some of the philosophic sources of the American Constitution.

POLICIES

Grading

Two papers (3-5 pages): 20% each

Two quizzes (1/2 hr each): 10% each

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 20%

Attendance - Required. Unexcused absences will result in a lower final grade.

Excused absences – A student missing a class because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by the last day of late registration to be assured of this opportunity. Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es). Please do not schedule work or a doctor's appointment during class time. Speak with the instructor ahead of time if you believe you have to miss a class. Emergencies (illness, car problems, funerals) are excused with documentation.

Rebelmail – Use Rebelmail accounts for email. This is a UNLV policy.

Classroom conduct- Do not engage in conduct during class that disrupts the learning process. Inappropriate activities include, but are not limited to, eating during class, cellphone use or text messaging, laptop use for anything other than note-taking, talking to classmates. These behaviors will result in anything from an "absent" to a lowering of your grade, at my discretion

Required Books. We will use the following editions/translations. Always bring your book to class
Plato's Apology of Socrates, in Four Texts on Socrates, West translation (Cornell Univ. Press)
Plato, The Republic of Plato, Bloom translation (Univ. of Chicago)
Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince Mansfield translation (Univ. of Chicago)
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Penguin)
John Locke, Two Treatises of Government and Letter Concerning Toleration (Dover)

READING SCHEDULE- Any modification to the schedule will be announced in class and on WebCampus

1. Tues, Aug 25, Introduction
2. Thurs, Aug 27, Plato, Apology of Socrates 17a-24b (pp.63-73)
3. Tues, Sept 1, Plato, Apology of Socrates 24b-42a (pp. 73-97)
4. Thurs, Sept 3, Plato, Republic Book I, pp. 3-16; "Interpretive Essay," pp. 307-325
5. Tues, Sept 8, Plato, Republic Book I-II, pp. 16-45; "Interpretive Essay," pp. 325-344
6. **Thurs, Sept 10**, Plato, Republic Book II, pp. 45-61; "Interpretive Essay," pp. 344-353

QUIZ 1

7. Tues, Sept 15, Plato, Republic Book III, pp. 63-96; "Interpretive Essay," pp. 353-369
8. Thurs, Sept 17, Plato, Republic Book IV, pp.105-114, 118-125
9. **Tues, Sept 22**, Plato, Republic Book V, pp. 127-144, 151-161

PAPER 1 DUE

10. Thurs, Sept 24, Plato, Republic Book VI, pp. 167-189 ; check Webcampus for discussion topics
11. Tues, Sept 29, Plato, Republic Book VII, pp. 193-201
12. Thurs, Oct 1, Machiavelli Prince Dedicatory Letter and chs I-VI
13. Tues, Oct 6, Machiavelli Prince VII-XI
14. Thurs, Oct 8, Machiavelli Prince XII-XV
15. Tues, Oct 13, Machiavelli Prince XV-XIX; check Webcampus for discussion topics
16. Thurs, Oct 15 Machiavelli Prince XX-XXVI
17. **Tues, Oct 20 MID TERM EXAM**
18. Thurs, Oct 22, Hobbes Leviathan Epistle Dedicatory (pp. 75-76), Introduction (pp.81-83), ch. 6
19. Tues, Oct 27, Hobbes Leviathan chapters 13-14
20. Thurs, Oct 29, Hobbes Leviathan chapters 15-18; check Webcampus for discussion topics
21. **Tues, Nov 3**, Hobbes Leviathan chapters 19-21

QUIZ 2

22. Thurs, Nov 5, Hobbes Leviathan chapter 30
23. Tues, Nov 10, Locke, Second Treatise chapters 1-4; check Webcampus for discussion topics
24. Thurs, Nov 12, Locke, Second Treatise chapter 5-6; The Bible, 1Timothy ch. 6
25. **Tues, Nov 17**, Locke, Second Treatise chapters 7, 8 (sections 95-100), 9-12

PAPER 2 DUE

26. Thurs, Nov 19, Locke, Second Treatise chapters 13-14, 19
27. Tues, Nov 24, Locke, Letter Concerning Toleration
28. Tues, Dec 1, Locke, Letter Concerning Toleration
29. Thurs, Dec 3, check Webcampus for discussion topics

Academic Misconduct – “Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is **plagiarism**: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TDD (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Religious Holidays Policy -- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day at late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not be avoided.

Tutoring -- The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>

UNLV Writing Center – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>