

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

PSC 771: Seminar in Political Theory  
W 2:30-5:20 p.m., WRI B224

Fall 2009  
Professor Fott

Office: WRI B217; 895-4187  
Office hours: TuTh 3:00-4:30 p.m., or by appointment  
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This course is the proseminar in political theory. The theme will be international justice. Does might make right, or is there some other standard of justice? Does natural law exist? To what extent may war and peace be comprehended in human law? We will study those questions among others by reading some of the greatest political thinkers.

**Required Readings:**

The following books have been ordered for purchase:

- Thucydides. *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*. Edited by Robert B. Strassler. Touchstone, 1998.
- Augustine. *Political Writings*. Edited by Ernest L. Fortin and Douglas Kries. Translated by Michael W. Tkacz and Douglas Kries. Hackett, 1994.
- Thomas Aquinas. *On Law, Morality, and Politics*. Edited by William P. Baumgarth and Richard J. Regan. 2nd ed. Hackett, 2003.
- Niccolò Machiavelli. *The Prince*. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield. 2nd ed. Univ. of Chicago Press, 1998.
- Hugo Grotius. *The Rights of War and Peace*. Edited by Richard Tuck. 3 vols. Liberty Fund, 2005.
- Immanuel Kant. *"Toward Perpetual Peace" and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History*. Edited by Pauline Kleingeld. Translated by David L. Colclasure. Yale Univ. Press, 2006.

Additional readings (marked \*) will be available on electronic reserve through the library.

**Schedule of Topics:**

August 26	Introduction
September 2	Thucydides, bk. 1
September 9	Thucydides, bk. 2; <b>paper #1 due</b>
September 16	Thucydides, bks. 3-4
September 23	Thucydides, bks. 5-6
September 30	Thucydides, bks. 7-8
October 7	*Cicero, <i>On the Republic</i> , <i>On the Laws</i> , and selections from <i>On Duties</i> ; <b>paper #2 due</b>
October 14	The previous week continued
October 21	Augustine, pp. 16-21, 30-32, 42-44, 112-13, 140-63, 202-29; Thomas Aquinas, pp. 10-22, 28, 30-34, 42-55, 61-75, 93-95, 97-123, 164-67, 188-89
October 28	Machiavelli, entire
November 4	Grotius, pp. 75-189, 195-97, 240-77, 293-307, 335
November 11	No class (Veterans Day recess)

- November 18 Grotius, pp. 336-83, 389-91, 393-97, 408, 417, 420-27, 454-58, 508-23, 556-61, 634-36, 685-89, 699-704, 736-41, 802-11, 817-20, 949-59, 991-92, 1021-25, 1041-44, 1096-1102, 1105-6, 1185-87, 1231-35, 1246-47, 1252-56
- November 25 Kant, pp. 3-16, 37-41, 44-109, 139-63
- December 2 \*Morgenthau, selections from *Politics among Nations*; \*Waltz, selections from *Man, the State, and War*; \*other readings to be announced; **long paper due**

### Assignments:

Written assignments include a short paper of 2 pages (paper #1) on a topic to be assigned (worth 10% of your final grade), a short paper of 5 to 6 pages (paper #2) on a topic to be assigned (worth 25%), and a long paper of 15 to 20 pages (worth 50%). For the long paper you may write on a topic assigned by me or on a topic of your choice, with my prior approval no later than October 21. Your participation in the discussions will count for 15% of your final grade. You must complete all written assignments in order to pass the course. Your grade will be reduced if you have more than one unexcused absence; lateness normally counts as an absence.

Extensions for submitting papers will be granted only in cases of emergency (e.g., personal illness, preferably with a note from a doctor; serious illness in one's family). The grade on a paper will be reduced by one increment for each day the paper is late without an approved extension (e.g., a paper of B+ quality will receive a B if it is one day late; a paper of A quality will receive an A-/B+ if it is two days late).

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If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you should contact the Disability Resource Center for coordination of services. The center is located in the Student Services Complex, room 137. The telephone number is 895-0866 (TDD 895-0652). For more information see <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

For UNLV policy on religious holidays see <http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=44&bc=1>.