

Political Science 200:  
PSC 200-001  
MW, 2:30-3:45pm  
Fall 2006  
Professor Mark Lutz

Survey of Political Theory  
WRI C303

The tasks of political theory are to raise and search for answers to the fundamental questions of political life, such as how should we live, as individuals and as a society? What is justice, and what does it require of us? What is good and what is evil? What is the best form of government? In this class we will survey some of the most important thinkers who have sought to answer such questions, including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Plato.

### **Readings:**

The following books should be purchased:

1. Niccolò Machiavelli. *The Prince*. 2nd ed. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield. Univ. of Chicago Press, 1998.
2. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*.
3. John Locke. *Two Treatises of Government*. "Book Two"
4. Plato. *The Republic*. 2nd ed. Translated by Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1991.

### **Format:**

Each session will combine lecture and discussion. It is very important that you come to class having done the assigned reading for that day. Read the material at least twice. Take notes and raise any questions you may have in class.

### **Assignments**

Assignments include:

1. In-class examination (30%).
3. Paper of 4 or 5 pages on a topic to be assigned, due on October 9th (30%)
4. Final examination (40%)

You must complete all written assignments in order to pass the course. Your contribution in class may increase your final grade by one increment. Your grade will be reduced if you have more than two un-excused absences.

Each examination will consist partially or wholly of one or more essay questions. One week before each examination you will receive details about it to guide your study.

Make-up examinations and 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 on the scale for each day the paper is late without an approved extension.

### **Announcement**

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact Disability Services (DS) for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disability Services is located within Learning Enhancement Services (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services complex (SSC), Room 137. The telephone number is 895-0866 / TDD 895-0652.

## Schedule

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Mon Aug 28  | Introduction  |
| 2. Wed Aug 30  | Machiavelli <i>Dedicatory Letter</i> & chapters 1-4   |
| Mon Sep 4  | Labor Day (no class)  |
| 3. Wed Sep 6   | 5-8   |
| 4. Mon Sep 11  | 9-14  |
| 5. Wed Sep 13  | 15-17   |
| 6. Mon Sep 18  | 18-22   |
| 7. Wed Sep 20  | 23-26   |
| 8. Mon Sep 25  | Hobbes <i>Dedicatory Letter, Introduction</i> , and chapters 1-6.   |
| 9. Wed Sep 27  | 10, 11 & 13   |
| 10. Mon Oct. 2   | 14-16   |
| 11. Wed. Oct 4   | 17-21, 29, 30   |
| 12. Mon Oct 9  | Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> . Book II, chapters 1-4   |
| 13. Wed Oct 11   | “ ” “ ” Book II, chapters 5<br><i>Bible. Matthew</i> 6:24-34, 19:16-26; <i>1<sup>st</sup> Timothy</i> 6:9-21. |
| 14. Mon Oct 16   | Locke. <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> . Book II, chapters 6, 7  |
| (sections 77-88); chapter 8 (95-99); chapter 9; chapter 11, 12 & 13. |   |
| 15. Wed Oct 18   | Locke. <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> . Book II, chapters 14 and  |
| 19   |   |
|  | <i>Declaration of Independence</i>  |
| 16. Mon Oct 23   | Lecture on Modernity, Marx and Nietzsche  |
| 17. Wed Oct 25   | In class exam   |
| 18. Mon Oct 30   | Plato <i>Republic</i> .Book I (327a-336a)   |
| 19. Wed Nov 1  | I (336b-354c)   |
| 20. Mon Nov 6  | II (357a-369b)  |
| 21. Wed Nov 8  | II (369b-383c)  |
| 22. Mon Nov 13   | III (386a-412b)   |
| 23. Wed Nov 15   | III-IV (412b-427c)  |
| 24. Mon Nov 20   | IV (427c-445e)  |
| 24. Wed Nov 22   | V (449a-471b)   |
| 25. Mon Nov 27   | V-VI (471c-504e)  |
| 26. Wed Nov 29   | VI (504e-511e)  |
| 27. Mon Dec 4  | VII (514a-521b; 540d-541b)  |
|  | IX (592a-b)   |
| 28. Wed Dec 6  | Conclusion: Lecture on Plato and Aristotle  |

### Announcement

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, the University encourages you to visit its copyright website at:

<http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>