

## **SURVEY OF POLITICAL THEORY**

PSC 200-001 Spring 2008

Mon/Wed 2:30-3:45

BEH 224

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WRI A223

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**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed 9:30-10:30, or by appointment.

The history of political thought is defined by important and perennial questions about how we ought to live both as individuals and citizens, questions such as, what is justice? What defines a political society? What is virtue? What is the proper aim of law, and what is the basis of its authority? We will consider these questions as they emerge through the works of Aristotle, Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.

Expected Learning Outcomes - Students will become familiar with the differences between ancient and modern approaches to the study of politics. Students will learn some of the philosophic sources of the American Constitution. Students will learn to read original texts in order to consider some of the most profound moral, political and economic ideas in Western philosophy.

### **POLICIES**

#### **Grading**

Paper #1: 1-2 page paper, due February 6 = 5% of final grade

Paper #2: 3-5 page paper, due March 3 = 15% of final grade

Paper #3: 3-5 page paper, due April 21 = 20% of final grade

Midterm exam = 20% of final grade

Final exam = 25% of final grade

Class participation (attendance and discussion) = 10% of final grade

Group activity = 5% of final grade

**Attendance** - Required. Unexcused absences will lower your class participation 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, January 28, 2008, 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). 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.

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

**Required Books** - Note: Always bring your book to class.

Aristotle, The Politics, Lord translation (Univ. of Chicago)

Plato, Apology of Socrates, West translation, in Four Texts on Socrates (Cornell Univ Press)

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince (Univ. of Chicago)

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Penguin)

John Locke, Two Treatises of Government (Cambridge Univ. Press)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, On the Social Contract, Masters translation (St. Martin's Press)

## **READING SCHEDULE**

Meeting # / Date / Reading

1. 1/23 Introduction; Machiavelli Prince Dedicatory Letter

2. 1/28 Machiavelli Prince I-VIII

3. 1/30 Machiavelli Prince IX-XIV

4. 2/4 Machiavelli Prince XV-XIX

5. 2/6 Machiavelli Prince XX-XXVI

**PAPER #1 DUE**

6. 2/11 Hobbes Leviathan Epistle Dedicatory (pp. 75-76), Introduction (pp.81-83), ch. 1-6

7. 2/13 Hobbes Leviathan chapters 10-11, 13-14

8. 2/20 Hobbes Leviathan chapter 15-18

9. 2/25 Hobbes Leviathan chapter 19-21, 30

10. 2/27 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 1-5

11. 3/3 Locke, Second Treatise chapter 5 Also the Bible, 1Timothy ch. 6

**PAPER #2 DUE**

12. 3/5 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 6-7

13. 3/10 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 8-14, 19

14. 3/12 **MIDTERM EXAM**

**SPRING BREAK**

15. 3/24 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 1

16. 3/26 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 2

17. 3/31 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 3

18. 4/2 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 4

19. 4/7 Plato, Republic, handout

20. 4/9 Plato, Apology of Socrates

21. 4/14 Plato, Apology of Socrates

22. 4/16 Aristotle Politics Book 1, chapters1-9

23. 4/21 Aristotle Politics Book 3, chapters1-9

**PAPER #3 DUE**

24. 4/23 Aristotle Politics Book 3, chapters10-16

25. 4/28 Aristotle Politics Book 3, chapters 17-18

26. 4/30 Aristotle Politics Books 7 & 8

27. 5/5 Group activity

28. 5/7 Group activity

**FINAL EXAM**

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

**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*” (at <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>).

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**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty will not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan. 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, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. *For additional information, please visit:* <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

### **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-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. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Do not make audio or visual recordings of the class

