

PSC409z
Political Theory: Special Topics: The Rule of Law
BEH 212 Tue and Thur 4-5:15
Prof. Mark Lutz

Office: Wright A208
Hours: 2:30 to 3:30 on Tuesday, 1:30 to 3:30 on Thursday, and by appointment.
email: mark.lutz@unlv.edu

Course Description.

This course examines the rule of law through careful readings and discussions of one ancient and one modern political philosopher. We begin by reading Plato's *Laws* in order to consider the case for a classical republic and the role that divine law should play in bringing freedom, virtue, and friendship to its citizens. We will next examine Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* in order to consider the modern understanding of law and its role in a secular, liberal, and commercial republic. In the course of our examinations, we will pay special attention to questions about what law is and to the proper relationship between law and reason, religion, virtue and freedom.

Learning Objectives.

The goal of the course is to improve the student's ability to read rich and challenging works about politics and morality and to help the student think, write, and talk about the books' themes. In particular, the course aims to develop the student's understanding of important differences between ancient and modern accounts of law and of the best political society.

Required books

1. Montesquieu, Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de. *The Spirit of the Laws*. Cambridge.
2. Plato. *Minos*. Available through e-reserve.
3. Plato. *The Laws*. Pangle translation. Chicago.

Assignments

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. In class exam Feb. 19 | 15% |
| 2. 3-4 page paper due Mar. 13 | 20% |
| 3. In class exam Apr. 15 | 15% |
| 4. 3-4 page paper due Apr. 24 | 20% |
| 5. Final | 20% |
| 6. Class participation. | 10% |

Attendance policy.

Students are expected to prepare for and attend each class. Those who miss more than two classes without a valid excuse will be penalized by a ½ grade reduction in the course grade. Students who must miss a class because of a religious holiday must notify the instructor by the end of January in order to be excused. Students who must miss a class because they are representing UNLV at an extracurricular event must notify the instructor at least one week prior to the missed class.

Reading Schedule

Jan 22	Introduction	
Jan 24	Plato	<i>Minos</i>
Jan 29		<i>Minos</i>
Jan 31		<i>Laws</i> I
Feb 5		I
Feb 7		II
Feb 12		III
Feb 14		III
Feb 19		In class exam
Feb 21		IV-V
Feb 26		VI
Feb 28		VII-VIII
Mar 4		IX
Mar 6		X
Mar 11		X
Mar 13		XI (paper due)
Mar 25		XII
Mar 27	Montesquieu	Foreward, Preface, Book 1 and 2
Apr 1		Books 3 and 4
Apr 3		Book 5
Apr 8		Books 6 (1, 2, 5, 6, 9) and 7 (1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 14)
Apr 10		Book 7 and 8 (1-4, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20)
Apr 15		In class exam
Apr 17		Book 11
Apr 22		Books 12, 14, and 15 (1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 18).
Apr 24		Book 19 (paper due)
Apr 29		Book 20
May 1		Book 21
May 6		Book 24
May 8		Books 26

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>>).*

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) 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 should 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/>

Students are expected to monitor their Rebelmail for messages during the semester. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at 702-895-0761 in the Student Union room 231 or by email at studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu> for information.