

# Survey of Western Political Thought: Political Science 2004

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Office Hours: Wednesday, Friday, 2-3pm, and by appointment

Office: Ketchum 5B (Basement, N-E side, down a short hallway)

Class Meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Section 20: Ketchum 235: 1:00pm - 1:50pm

Section 30: Hellems 211: 3:00pm - 3:50pm

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This course introduces some of the main canonical political thinkers and through them some enduring political questions, stretching from ancient Greece up through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Some of the questions the authors we read explore include the following. Why should anyone obey the law? What is justice? Is there a distinct morality in the realm of politics? When is government legitimate, and what are the legitimate limits to government? What is liberty or freedom?

This class is divided into six main sections that roughly correspond to historical time periods, starting with the Ancients and ending in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We begin in 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE with Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, who remain the lodestars to whom later political theorists are deeply indebted. Second, jumping nearly two millennia to the 16<sup>th</sup> century AD, Machiavelli forcefully challenges the Ancients and More offers a rejoinder. Third, the social contract theorists of the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries including Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, offer different justifications for legitimate state government. Fourth, we briefly examine the debates surrounding the founding of the U.S., theories of freedom, and Marx's 19<sup>th</sup> century criticisms of these views, among other aspects of his writings. Fifth, we explore Mill's mid 19<sup>th</sup> century classics *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism* in some detail. Finally, we conclude with perhaps the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influence political theorist, Rawls, and touch on contemporary race and gender theories.

Your grade consists of the following.

Attendance: 10%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 25%

Paper: 25%

Random Quizzes and Assignments: 15%

The paper must be 5-7 pages, it will be due the near the end of the class, and further instructions will be given later. Plagiarism or any form of cheating may result in a zero for the paper and any other assignment.

You are required to do the readings by the date listed on the syllabus. For example for January 13, 2010, you should have read Book 1 of Plato's *Republic*, lines 327-354c. You should read carefully and be ready to discuss, bring questions that you have to class, and bring a copy of the readings to class.

Many of the canonical texts that we read this semester are available online and in different editions and translations at bookstores and libraries. To save you money, I put links on the syllabus for many of the readings. But of course you are welcome to and I would encourage you to buy hard copies of them so you can make notes in the margins, underline, highlight, and so on, and because you will likely want to refer back to and reference them for other classes you will take.

## I. The Ancients

### **Plato *Republic*: What is Justice?**

1. January 11, 2010: Introduction: What is Political Philosophy?
2. January 13, 2010: Plato, *Republic*, Plato, *Republic*, Book 1, lines 327-354c, 27 pages <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>
3. January 15, 2010: January 22, 2010, Plato, *Republic*, Book 2, lines 357- 376d

### **Plato *Republic***

4. January 18, 2010, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: No Class
5. January 20, 2010, Plato, *Republic*, Book 3 (selections) and 4, lines 414b-445e
  - a. Kristof, Nicholas. 17 January 2010. "Our Basic Human Pleasure: Food, Sex, and Giving." *New York Times*. (Optional)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/17/opinion/17kristof.html>
6. January 22, 2010, Plato, *Republic*, Book 5, lines 449-476d, 22 pages; Reeve, "Naked Women in the Palestra," 4 pages , easy

### **Plato *Republic*; Socrates' Trial: The Problem of Political Obligation**

7. January 25, 2010, Plato, *Republic*, Book 7, lines 514-521c, 5 pages; Plato, *Republic* Book 8, lines 557-567d, 7 pages
8. January 27, 2010, Plato, *Apology* <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>
9. January 29, 2010, Plato, *Crito*, *Phaedo*, 18 pages, deceptively easy, read carefully. <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html>
  - a. Zinn, Howard. 1970 [1997]. "The Problem is Civil Obedience." In *The Zinn Reader: Writings on Disobedience and Democracy*. Seven Stories Press: New York. pp. 403-11 (Optional)
  - b. Simmons, A. John. 1979. *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*. Princeton University Press: Princeton (Optional)

### **Aristotle *Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics***

10. February 1, 2010, Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk 1, Chapters 1 and 2, 5 pages. Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk 3, Chapters 7 -11, 13, 12 pages  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>
11. February 3, 2010, Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 5 Selections  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>
12. February 5, 2010, Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 8 Selections

## II. A Challenge to Classical Political Thought, and A Response

### **Machiavelli, Walzer, and More**

13. February 8, 2010, Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 15-18, 25-26, Appendix, <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince00.htm>
  - a. Berlin, Isaiah. 1972 [1997]. "The Originality of Machiavelli." In *The Proper Study of Mankind*. Farrar Straus and Giroux: New York. pp. 269-325 (Optional)
14. February 10, 2010, Walzer, "The Problem of Dirty Hands"
15. February 12, 2010, More, *Utopia*, "More's Letter," "Gilles's Letter," and Bk. 1 of *Utopia*

## III. Social Contract Theorists

### **Hobbes and Locke**

16. February 15, 2010, Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapt. 13, Chapt. 14 (paragraphs 1-8, 18-20, 23-33), Chapt. 15 (1-3, 35-41), 16 pages, difficult.  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm>
17. February 17, 2010, Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapt. 17 (1-2, 6-7, 12-15); Chapt 18 (1-10, 16, 20); Chapt 19 (1-2, 4-7); Chapt. 20 (1-3); Chapt. 21 (1-18, 21-22); Chapt. 29 (1-10); Chapt. 30 (1-4)
18. February 19, 2010, Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (note that Locke's work is organized by numbered sections and that the following are section, not page numbers.): Sections 4-24, 87-92, 95-100, 123-142

### **Locke**

19. February 22, 2010, Locke on Property, Tacit Consent and the Right of Revolution, *Second Treatise*, Sections 25-37, 40, 46-50; Robert Nozick, "The Lockean Theory of Acquisition," "The Proviso"
20. February 24, 2010, Locke *Second Treatise*, Sections 117-122 (4 pages, read carefully); Hume, excerpts from "Of the Original Contract" 3 pages
21. February 26, 2010, Locke *Second Treatise*, "Of the Dissolution of Government" Sections 211-232, 240-243

### **Rousseau**

22. March 1, 2010, Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books 1 and 2

- 23. March 3, 2010, Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Bk 3 (chapters 1-6, 10-18); Bk 4 (skip chapters 4 and 5)
- 24. March 5, 2010, Review

#### IV. The Founding of the U.S., Marx, and Freedom

##### **Midterm, Federalists, Jefferson, and Marx**

- 25. March 8, 2010, Midterm Exam
- 26. March 10, 2010, Federalist Papers, numbers 9, 10, 48-51. And Jefferson 1789 Letter to Madison "The Earth Belongs to the Living"
- 27. March 12, 2010, Marx, "The Communist Manifesto, Part I, 9 pages, more difficult (Manifesto); Marx, "Preface to the Critique of Political Economy" 1 page (Preface)

##### **Marx, Constant, and Berlin**

- 28. March 15, 2010, Marx, "On the Jewish Question", 12 pages, difficult; Marx, "Critique of the Gotha Program," 2 pages; Marx, "The Power of Money in Bourgeois Society," 4 pages
- 29. March 17, 2010, Constant, "Liberty of the Ancients and Moderns"
- 30. March 19, 2010, How to write a political science paper

##### **Spring Break, March 22-26, 2010**

#### V. John Stuart Mill: Liberty and Utilitarianism

##### **Mill, *On Liberty***

- 31. March 29, 2010, Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Freedom" Read p. 118 - 141 and 162 - 172. To put it another way, only sections 1,2,3, 7 and 8 are required (sections 4,5,6 optional).
- 32. March 31, 2010, Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 1
- 33. April 2, 2010, Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 3, approx. 35 pages, difficult

##### **Mill, *On Liberty* and Utilitarianism and Orwell on Writing**

- 34. April 5, 2010, Mill, *On Liberty*, Book 2, approx. 40 pages, difficult
- 35. April 7, 2010, Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 4
- 36. April 9, 2010, Orwell, "Politics and the English Language" and "Why I Write"

##### **Mill, Kant, and Rawls**

- 37. April 12, 2010, Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapters 1-2
- 38. April 14, 2010, Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapters 4-5
- 39. April 16, 2010, Kant, "On the Common Saying: 'This May be True in Theory, but it does not Apply in Practice'" and "What is Enlightenment?"

## VI. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Political Thought

### **Rawls, and Environmental Political Theory**

- 40. April 19, 2010, Rawls, Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, excerpts
- 41. April 21, 2010, *Political Liberalism*, excerpts
- 42. April 23, 2010, Environmental Political Theory, Reading to be Determined

### **Mills, Okin, and Final Exam Review**

- 43. April 26, 2010, Mills, *The Racial Contract*, Introduction and Chapter 1
- 44. April 28, 2010, Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family*, Chapter 1
- 45. April 30, 2010, Last Class: Final Exam Review

### **Final Exam**

1pm Class: Wednesday May 5, from 4:30pm - 7:00pm

3pm Class: Thursday May 6, from 10:30am - 1:00pm

[http://registrar.colorado.edu/calendar/exam\\_sched\\_spring10.html](http://registrar.colorado.edu/calendar/exam_sched_spring10.html)

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#### COMMUNICATION:

The University of Colorado considers email an *official* form of communication. You are responsible for checking your *colorado.edu* account regularly (at least once per day, Monday through Friday) to ensure receipt of important course information (e.g., schedule changes, review materials, etc.).

#### DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322. The University's policies on disability accommodations can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

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Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, I conform to all university policies. You must inform me in a timely manner (a week before) if you must miss class or any exam due to religious observance. [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

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Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially

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