

SURVEY OF POLITICAL THEORY

PSC 200-002 Fall 2007

Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:15

WRI C303

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WRI A223

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:30

Philosophers such as Aristotle, Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau raise important and perennial questions about how we ought to live both as individuals and citizens, questions such as, what is justice? what opposes or aids the achievement of justice? what are our duties to others? what is the proper aim of law, and what is the basis of its authority? We will become familiar with the alternative approaches to politics that emerge through these works.

POLICIES

Grading

3-5 page paper, due Oct. 11, 10% of final grade

5-7 page paper, due Nov. 29, 20% of final grade

Two quizzes, 15% each

Final exam, 30% of final grade

Attendance The student's grade will be lowered after two unexcused absences.

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, Discourse on Inequality, Masters translation, in The First and Second Discourses (Harper and Row)

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

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1. 8/28 Introduction
2. 8/30 Aristotle Politics Book 1, chapters 1-7, 9
3. 9/4 Aristotle Politics Bk 3:1-5
4. 9/6 Aristotle Politics Bk 3:6-13
5. 9/11 Aristotle Politics Bk 4:1-2, 8-12
6. 9/13 Aristotle Politics Bk 7
7. 9/18 Aristotle Politics Bk 7

QUIZ

8. 9/20 Plato's Apology of Socrates 17a-28b
9. 9/25 Plato's Apology of Socrates 28b-end

10. 9/27 Machiavelli Prince Dedicatory Letter; I-III
11. 10/2 Machiavelli Prince IV-IX
12. 10/4 Machiavelli Prince X-XIV
13. 10/9 Machiavelli Prince XV-XIX
14. 10/11 Machiavelli Prince XX-XXVI

PAPER DUE 3-5 pages

15. 10/16 Hobbes Leviathan Introduction, ch. 6
16. 10/18 Hobbes Leviathan chapters 13,14
17. 10/23 Hobbes Leviathan chapter 15-20
18. 10/25 Hobbes Leviathan chapter 21-22, 30

19. 10/30 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 1-4
20. 11/1 Locke, Second Treatise chapter 5

QUIZ

21. 11/6 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 5-7
22. 11/8 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 8-14
23. 11/13 Locke, Second Treatise chapters 15 and 19

24. 11/15 Rousseau, Discourse on Inequality (Second Discourse), Epistle Dedicatory, Preface, First part (pp. 118-69)

25. 11/20 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 1

NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/22 -11/25

26. 11/27 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 2

27. 11/29 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 3

PAPER DUE 5-7 pages

28. 12/4 Rousseau, Social Contract Book 4
29. 12/6 Review