

**PSC 200: Survey of Political Theory**  
**Fall, 2006: Dr. Jelen**

**Contact Information:**

Office: WRI 206  
e-mail: [jelent@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:jelent@unlv.nevada.edu),  
Phone: 702-895-3355

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, 11:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday: 3:00-4:00 pm  
Friday, 10:30-11:30 am

**Required Texts:**

Joseph Losco and Leonard Williams (editors) *Political Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings* ( 2 volumes, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

**Objective:**

This course is intended to provide the beginning student with an overview of some of the great Western political thinkers. Students will be acquainted with the agenda and arguments made by seminal political philosophers, and will develop the capacity to analyze these materials critically, and to compare and contrast the assumptions and conclusions of diverse political theorists.

**Grading:**

There will be three exams (essay, or mixed format including essay) given on September 21, October 19, and December 14. Exams are non-cumulative, and each counts for 1/3 of student's final grade.

Class participation will be used as a tie-breaker, if a student's grade is on a borderline. Under most circumstances, participation can only help the student's grade, unless the participation is disruptive of class lectures and discussion, or does not demonstrate respect for the sincerely-held views of others.

**Policies:**

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to the final exam schedule will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations. Make-ups for other exams will be administered on December 7, during the second half of class.

The 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. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. 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/>>.

For additional information about the DRC and procedures to follow when students ask for exemptions or exceptions based on their disability claim, refer them to the DRC website. For all faculty and staff (professional and classified) ADA accommodation determinations, please contact Marc Cardinalli, Assistant General Counsel and Administrative Code Officer, Flora Dungan Humanities Building (FDH), Room 320, 895-1879.

## Course Schedule:

- I. Introduction (August 31)  
Losco and Williams, Vol. I, Introduction.
  
- II. Ancient Political Theory  
Plato (September 7)  
Losco and Williams, Vol. I, pp. 58-61; Chapters 4-7.  
Aristotle (September 14)  
Losco and Williams, Vol. I, pp. 104-107, Chapters 8-11.  
  
**September 21: First Exam**
  
- III. Catholic Political Theory: The Merger of Athens and Jerusalem  
St. Augustine (September 28)  
Losco and Williams, Vol. I, pp. 198-200, Chapters 15-17.  
St. Thomas Aquinas (October 5)  
Losco and Williams, Vol. I, pp. 239-242, Chapters 18-21.
  
- IV. The Dawn of Modernity  
Niccolo Machiavelli (October 12)  
Losco and Williams, Vol I, pp. 329-330, Chapters 26-29. or  
Losco and Williams, Vol II, pp. 9-12, Chapters 1-4.  
  
**October 19: Second Exam**
  
- V. Social Contract Theories  
Thomas Hobbes (October 26)  
Losco and Williams, Volume II, pp. 48-51, Chapters 5-7.  
John Locke (November 2)  
Losco and Williams, Volume II, pp. 86-89, Chapters 8-10.  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau (November 9)  
Losco and Williams, Volume II, pp. 140-143, Chapters 11-14.
  
- VI. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Karl Marx (November 16)  
Losco and Williams. Volume II, pp. 340-342, Chapters 25-30.  
John Stuart Mill (November 30)  
Losco and Williams, Volume II, pp.404-404, Chapters 31-35.
  
- VII. Wrap-Up (December 7)

**Make-up exams, Second half of class, December 7**  
**Final Exam: December 14: 4:00 pm**