

Political Science 200: Survey of Political Theory

PSC 200-001

MW, 2:30-3:45pm WRI C237

Fall 2005

Professor Mark Lutz

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The tasks of political theory are to raise and search for answers to the fundamental questions of political life, such as how should we live, as individuals and as a society? What is justice, and what does it require of us? What is good and what is evil? What is the best form of government? In this class we will survey some of the most important thinkers who have sought to answer such questions, including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Plato.

Readings:

The following books should be purchased:

1. Niccolò Machiavelli. *The Prince*. 2nd ed. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield. Univ. of Chicago Press, 1998.
2. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*.
3. John Locke. *Two Treatises of Government*. "Book Two"
4. Plato. *The Republic*. 2nd ed. Translated by Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1991.

Format:

Each session will combine lecture and discussion. It is very important that you come to class having done the assigned reading for that day. Read the material at least twice. Take notes and raise any questions you may have in class.

Assignments

Assignments include:

1. In-class examination (25%).
3. Paper of 5 pages on a topic to be assigned, due in mid-November (35%)
4. Final examination (40%)

You must complete all written assignments in order to pass the course. Your contribution in class may increase your final grade by one increment. Your grade will be reduced if you have more than two un-excused absences.

Each examination will consist partially or wholly of one or more essay questions. One week before each examination you will receive details about it to guide your study.

Make-up examinations and extensions for submitting papers will be granted only in cases of emergency (e.g., personal illness, preferably with a note from a doctor; serious illness in one's family). The grade on a paper will be reduced by one increment on the scale for each day the paper is late without an approved extension.

Announcement

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact Disability Services (DS) for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disability Services is located within Learning Enhancement Services (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services complex (SSC), Room 137. The telephone number is 895-0866 / TDD 895-0652.

Schedule

1. Mon Aug 29 Introduction

2. Wed Aug 31 Machiavelli *Dedicatory Letter* & chapters 1-4

Mon Sep 5 Labor Day (no class)

3. Wed Sep 7 5-8

4. Mon Sep 12 9-14

5. Wed Sep 14 15-17

6 Mon Sep 19 18-22

7. Wed Sep 21 23-26

8. Mon Sep 26 Hobbes *Dedicatory Letter, Introduction*, and chapter 6, 10.

9. Wed Sep 28 11 & 13

10. Mon Oct. 3 14-16

11. Wed. Oct 5 17-21, 29, 30

12. Mon Oct 10 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*. Book II, chapters 1-4

13. Wed Oct 12 " " " " Book II, chapters 5

Bible. Matthew 6:24-34, 19:16-26; 1st Timothy 6:9-21.

14. Mon Oct 17 Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Book II, chapters 6, 7 (sections 77-88); chapter 8 (95-99); chapter 9; chapter 11 12 & 13.

15. Wed Oct 19 Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Book II, chapters 14 and 19

Declaration of Independence

16. Mon Oct 24 Lecture on Marx and Nietzsche

17. Wed Oct 26 Mid-term exam
18. Mon Oct 31 Plato *Republic* .Book I (327a-336a)
19. Wed Nov 2 I (336b-354c)
20. Mon Nov 7 II (357a-369b)
21. Wed Nov 9 II (369b-383c)
22. Mon Nov14 III (386a-412b)
23. Wed Nov16 III-IV (412b-427c)
24. Mon Nov 21 IV (427c-445e)
- 24.Wed Nov 23 V (449a-471b)
- 25.Mon Nov 22 V-VI (471c-504e)
- 26.Wed Nov 30 VI (504e-511e)
- 27 Mon Dec 5 VII (514a-521b; 540d-541b)
IX (592a-b)
28. Wed Dec 7 Lecture on Plato and Aristotle

Announcement

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