

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

FALL 2016 COURSE SYLLABUS

PSC 200-1001 – Survey of Political Theory

Course Description

“No one lives as he wishes save the happy, and no one is happy save the just.” – Augustine

With this quote, Augustine captures several of the important questions addressed by political theorists. What is justice? How should we live, both as individuals and as a society? What is the best form of government and why do we need government? This course will introduce students to some of history’s greatest political thinkers and upon completing this class, students should be able to both engage these political theorists, and also to understand how these writings have affected and continue to affect our political lives.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- After completing this course, students should have a demonstrated understanding of:
 - The fundamental questions of political and moral life;
 - The differences and similarities between ancient and modern political thought
- This course supports the following University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs):
 1. **Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning:** Integrate basic principles of the social sciences and develop skills and a desire for lifelong learning;
 2. **Inquiry and Critical Thinking:** Be able to identify problems, articulate questions, and use various forms of research and reasoning to guide the collection, analysis, and use of information related to those problems;
 3. **Communication:** Communicate effectively in written and verbal modes;
 4. **Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness:** Develop a knowledge of multicultural societies and an awareness of one’s place in and effect on them;
 5. **Citizenship and Ethics:** Participate knowledgeably and actively in the public life of our communities and make informed, responsible, and ethical decisions in one’s personal and professional lives.

Required Texts

The following texts are required for this course. It is imperative that you obtain the edition noted in the syllabus. Electronic versions of the texts are not allowed.

- Machiavelli, Niccolò. 1998. *The Prince*. Trans. Harvey C. Mansfield. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hobbes, Thomas. 1985. *Leviathan*. London: Penguin Books.
- Locke, John. 1982. *Second Treatise of Government*. Ed. Richard Cox. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 2012. *The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. Trans. John T. Scott. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Plato. 1991. *The Republic of Plato*, 2nd Edition. Trans. Allan Bloom. New York: Basic Books.
- Aristotle. 2011. *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. Robert C. Bartlett and Susan D. Collins.
- Additional readings as assigned, which will be uploaded to WebCampus.

Classroom Behavior

- Arrive to class on time. Pop quizzes will take place at the start of class.
- Your cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc. must be off/on silent mode and out of sight. Use of any of these devices will result in you being asked to leave the class and your pop quiz points will be forfeited for the day.
- Do not engage in "side-bar" conversations. Disruptions may result in your being asked to leave the class and will negatively affect your pop quiz points.
- Treat this class professionally. This includes removing hats/caps when you arrive to class.
- Recording devices are strictly prohibited. This also includes taking photos of slides or other materials presented in class.
- No food or beverages are allowed, with the exception of water.
- Always maintain a courteous and respectful manner. The topics may get heated, but students are expected to engage each other and the instructor in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the university.
- Late assignments will not be accepted except in cases of extreme emergency. This is limited to the illness of the student or the illness or death of an immediate family member (spouse, parent, child, sibling, or grandparent). Documentation is required and the student is expected to notify the instructor in a timely manner.

Grading

Midterm and final grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

• 93% - 100%:	A	• 80% - 82.99%:	B-	• 60% - 69.99%:	D
• 90% - 92.99%:	A-	• 77% - 79.99%:	C+	• 0% - 59.99%:	F
• 87% - 89.99%:	B+	• 73% - 76.99%:	C		
• 83% - 86.99% :	B	• 70% - 72.99%:	C-		

Graded Areas

Students will be graded on the following items. Due dates can be found on the schedule on page five of the syllabus. Rubrics for the assignments can be found on the course WebCampus.

- **Exams:** There will be a total of two exams: Each exam is worth 250 points, or 25% of your grade each. The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. You must bring a clean exam book (which may be obtained at the Student Union) to each exam.
- **Written Assignments:** You will write four short essays for this course on each of the following thinkers: Machiavelli, Hobbes/Locke, Rousseau, and Plato. Topics and rubrics for each of the papers will be handed out in class. Each essay will be worth 100 points, or 10% of your final grade.
- **In-Class Quizzes:** Throughout the course, there will be several pop quizzes regarding the readings that will be discussed for the day. This will ensure that students come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Cumulatively, pop quizzes will be worth 10% of your final grade for this course.
- **Extra Credit:** I reserve the right to offer (or not offer) extra credit assignments throughout the semester. However, any extra credit opportunities will only be awarded to the class as a whole, and there are no “special case” extra credit opportunities or individually assigned extra credit assignments. Additionally, any opportunities for extra credit will only be announced in class and will not be considered after the specified deadline.

Graded Item	Points	Percent of Final Grade
Exams (midterm and final, 250 points each)	500	50%
Written Assignments (four essays, 100 points each)	400	40%
In-Class Quizzes	100	10%
Total	1,000	100%

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Readings	Deadlines
1	8/29	Course Introduction	
	8/31	Machiavelli <i>The Prince</i> : dedicatory letter, chs. 1-7	
2	9/5	Labor Day - No Class	
	9/7	Machiavelli <i>The Prince</i> : chs. 8-15	
3	9/12	Machiavelli <i>The Prince</i> : chs. 16-26	
	9/14	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> : Introduction (p. 9-63)	Machiavelli Paper Due
4	9/19	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> : p. 118-130; 150-151; 160-161; 183-188; 189-217; 223-228	
	9/21	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> : p. 118-130; 150-151; 160-161; 183-188; 189-217; 223-228	
5	9/26	Locke <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : chs. 1-7	
	9/28	Locke <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : chs. 8-15	
6	10/3	Locke <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : chs. 16-19	
	10/5	Rousseau <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> : p. 41-63 + notes	Hobbes/Locke Paper Due
	10/10	Rousseau <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> : p. 65-90 + notes	

7	10/11	Rousseau <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> : p. 91-117 + notes	
8 Midterm	10/17	Exam 1 (Midterm)	
	10/19	Classes Cancelled (Presidential Debate)	
9	10/24	Rousseau <i>Social Contract</i> : books 1-2	
	10/26	Rousseau <i>Social Contract</i> : book 3	
10	10/31	Rousseau <i>Social Contract</i> : book 4	
	11/2	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 3-34	Rousseau Paper Due
11	11/7	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 35-67; 90-96	
	11/9	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 97-125	
12	11/14	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 127-42; 152-61; 184-92	
	11/16	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 193-220	
13	11/21	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 221-44	
	11/23	Plato <i>Republic</i> : p. 251-64; 277-91; 297--303	
14	11/28	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : books 1-2	Plato Paper Due
	11/30	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : books 3-4	
15	12/5	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : books 5-6	
	12/7	Review	
16 Finals	12/12	Finals Week - Exam Date TBA	
	12/14		

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus and schedule

University Policies

Academic 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 Student 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. Plagiarism is 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* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** 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. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)— **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource

Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy— Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The **Academic Success Center (ASC)** provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

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-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. 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. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always

@unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library statement:

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.