

PSC 200: Survey of Political Theory

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Fall, 2022

Monday and Wednesday, 10:00am – 11:15am, WRI C235

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Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:20am – 12:50pm (or by appointment)

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The sources of empirical scholarly knowledge derive from theoretical constructs, giving birth to ideas, concepts, and intellectual discourse. Political Science is no different: there can be no political science without political theory. As such, every student of the discipline must have a general, coherent grasp of the overarching theoretical works that have shaped the study of political science over the centuries. We will begin with the ethical Plato, followed by the logical Aristotle, continuing to the religious St. Augustine, proceeding to the practical Machiavelli, confronting the empirical Locke, admiring the romantic Rousseau, and concluding with the materialist Marx. Upon the conclusion of this course, students should be well-versed in the basic tenants of the political philosophers covered, having acquired the necessary analytical skills to comprehend and engage in general discourse on political philosophy.

Readings for the course include the following texts:

Augustine, *Political Writings*. (Selections will be provided via e-mail)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*.

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*.

Plato, *The Republic Of Plato*.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract With Geneva Manuscript and Political Economy*.

Format of this course will primarily revolve around lectures and class discussions, with the assigned readings for the day being explained, analyzed and discussed. Lectures will be provided as general introductions to the stylistic and systemic distinctions between the theorists covered in class, introducing students to the debates and general discourse that is common among political philosophers. Since being present at lectures and partaking in discussions is vital for this course, attendance is mandatory, as is preparation for each class. Students are encouraged to closely and thoroughly read the assigned readings. I also encourage my students to email me with any questions or concerns they may have with the readings as they prepare for class. If you find yourself confused, stuck, or uncertain about what you are reading, I will be more than happy to provide clarification and context. As such, I expect every student to be prepared for class with at least a basic understanding of the assigned readings.

Course Schedule and Topics

- 08/29 - Introduction (The Philosophy of Political Thought, Structure and Method)
- 08/31 - *The Republic*, pp. 3-55
- 09/05 - *The Republic*, pp. 93-141, 152-161
- 09/07 - *The Republic*, pp. 184-220
- 09/12 - *The Republic*, pp. 221-244, 251-264, 272-281
- 09/14 - Lecture on Aristotle as Pupil and Critic of Plato; No Readings
- 09/19 – Lecture on Medieval Political Philosophy; Augustine *Political Writings*, Christianity and Politics; Law and Self-Defense
- 09/21 – Augustine *Political Writings*, The Use of Persecution; War; **EXAM 1 Assigned**
- 09/26 – Lecture on Early Modern Political Philosophy; *The Prince*, Dedicatory Letter, Chapters 1-5
- 09/28 - *The Prince*, Chapters 6-13
- 10/03 - *The Prince*, Chapters 14-20
- 10/05 - *The Prince*, Chapters 21-26
- 10/10 - Second Treatise of Government, Chapters 1-5
- 10/12 - *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 7-12
- 10/17 - Second Treatise of Government, Chapters 13-19;
- 10/19 – Lecture on Edmund Burke and Introduction to Rousseau; *On the Social Contract*, Books 1 / **ESSAY ASSIGNED; EXAM 2 Assigned**
- 10/24 - *On the Social Contract*, Book 2
- 10/26 - *On the Social Contract*, Book 3
- 10/31 – *On the Social Contract*, Book 4
- 11/02 - Lecture on Hegel and Introduction to Marx; *Selected Writings*, Communist Manifesto
- 11/07 – *Selected Writings*, Communist Manifesto
- 11/09 – *Selected Writings*, The German Ideology
- 11/14 - *Selected Writings*, The German Ideology
- 11/16 - Lecture on Contemporary Political Philosophy (Nietzsche)
- 11/21 – Lecture on Existentialism
- 11/22 – 11/25 – NO CLASS / THANKSGIVING RECESS**
- 11/28 - Work on Interpretive Essay
- 11/30 – **Interpretive Essay Due**
- 12/05 – Study Week / Work on Group Project
- 12/08 - **Group Projects Due / Exam 3 Assigned**
- 12/15 - **Final Examination/Exam 3 Due**

Assignments

1. First Examination (20% of grade)
2. Second Examination (20% of grade)
3. Interpretive Essay, 5-7 page paper, on a topic to be assigned (25% of grade).
4. Final Examination (30% of grade)
5. Group Project (5% of grade).

The five to seven page paper will be an essay covering a topic that has been addressed in class or in the readings. Essay question will be provided during the course of the semester and will be due at the end of the semester. Since all the political philosophers in the course would have been covered at this point, students should expect subject matters that are comprehensive.

All three examinations, including the final, will be in essay format, along with short, paragraph long answers. These examinations will provide students the opportunity to display their analytical and interpretive skills, demonstrating how well they have grasped the subject matter covered in class. Examinations in this class are take-home; as such, exams will be assigned in class, and students will have one week to complete the exam and submit it according to a set deadline.

Attendance for this course is mandatory. Students who have perfect attendance records will be provided the opportunity for extra credit (should they need it) to increase their grade. Students with one or more unexcused absences will not be allowed to capitalize on this opportunity.

A group project will be assigned at the beginning of the semester, with students clustering into six groups, one for each political philosopher covered in the course. Each group will be assigned a political philosopher. Each group would spend the entire semester addressing various issues and subject matters that I will provide. All groups will be given similar questions on subject matters that almost all the political philosophers cover in their works. Each group would address these topics as if speaking on behalf of the political philosopher that they represent. This will require each group to become well-versed in the method, system, and style of the given thinker they are assigned. At the end of the semester, the group will submit a 4-6 page response to the questions that they have been addressing. Preparation, thoroughness of answers, demonstration of knowledge for the political theorist, and overall work ethic would determine each student's grade. It is essential that all members equally contribute.

Late assignments and make-up exams will not be accepted unless in cases of emergency (documentation or proof will be required to demonstrate the nature and severity of emergency, i.e. illness, tragedy, religious holiday, etc.). In such cases, extensions will be provided. In cases where papers are submitted late without having been given approval of extension by instructor, half an increment from the grade will be deducted for each day after the deadline for submission.

Classroom Conduct: Students who engage in conduct that is disruptive to the class and to the learning process will be reprimanded accordingly. Texting, speaking on the cellphone, or utilizing one's phone during class is not acceptable. All cellphones must be turned off. Laptops or other devices used for taking notes will be allowed in class once approved by the instructor. Students are not permitted to use laptops, cellphones, or other technological devices to surf the internet, use social media, or engage in any behavior outside of taking classroom notes. Recording devices are not permitted in the classroom: it is strictly forbidden to record any lecture or discussion by the professor without the professor's explicit consent. Also, with the exception of non-alcoholic beverages, food and beverages are not permitted in class: eating in class is not permitted. Furthermore, students are not permitted to bring young children to class with

them (please discuss with me should such a situation arise). Each student will be given a single warning for such forms of disruptions: subsequent violations of the classroom conduct would be met with either grade deductions or removal from class for that day. As such, please be respectful to the course, to your fellow students, and to your instructor.

UNLV POLICIES

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are currently optional for all faculty and students in the classroom. ● Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at Health Requirements for Returning to Campus (<https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>). Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the UNLV Student Conduct Code, (https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), including being administratively withdrawn from the course. ● Information about COVID-19 reporting may be found here (<https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/reporting>).

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We 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 to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the Student Conduct Code, <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course. Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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 [copyright policy information](#) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895- 0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will 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.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas. UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. 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 period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or

within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Work policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](#) webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7326>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

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, please visit the [ASC website](#), <https://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 SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

Title IX

UNLV is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of unlawful discrimination including sexual and gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence like sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has experienced or is experiencing these types of behaviors, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available. To learn more or to report an incident, please visit the Office of Equal Employment and Title IX website at <https://www.unlv.edu/compliance>. Please be aware that as an instructor, I am not a confidential resource, and I will need to report incidents of sexual misconduct to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator. You can also report concerns directly using the online reporting form, at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofNevadaLasVegas&layout_id=18, or via email at titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu or 702-895-4055. For confidential support in matters of sexual violence, relationship/family violence, or stalking, contact the Care Center at <https://www.unlv.edu/carecenter> or 702-895-0602.

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they

have completed on their assignment.

988 FREE 24/7 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

In addition to campus resources such as the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) website at <https://www.unlv.edu/caps>, visiting the YOU@UNLV website at <https://you.unlv.edu/>, and Early Alert (for graduate students, at <https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/academy/early-alert>), you may now call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org if you or someone you know is in crisis and in need of support.

Diversity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.

Note: Professor reserves the right to make alterations and changes to the syllabus, including, but not limited to, addition or removal of assignments, assigned readings, due dates, and other changes deemed appropriate and consistent with the progress of the course during the semester. Students will be informed of such changes or alteration prior to such measures taking effect.