

Political Science 2004
SURVEY OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
Summer 2009 B Term.

Instructor: Prof. Horst Mewes (horst.mewes@colorado.edu) Ketchum 134B. Office hours: Tues-Thurs after class (or by appointment)

COURSE SYLLABUS

For over 2,000 years, great political thinkers have written about the foundations and purposes of government. Their aim was to devise the best type of government for human beings. But instead of examining each of these unique thinkers, we will read some of the most outstanding among them, organized according to their contribution to our knowledge about democracy. This includes both critics and advocates of democratic government and culture. We will ask: what were the central features and purposes of the earliest democracy in ancient Greece? How was it identical to, or different from, modern democracies? What are the roots of modern democratic freedoms? What are democracy's main attributes, and its main problems? Finally, What are the characteristics required of democratic 'citizens?' Politically, nothing is more important than critical awareness of these issues and anything related to it.

Required Readings

1. Benjamin Constant: The liberty of the ancients compared to that of the Moderns (available online)
2. Pericles: The Funeral Oration (in Thucydides: The Peloponnesian Wars) (available online)
3. Aristotle: Nichomachean Ethics (excerpts)
4. John Locke: Two Treatises of Government, Second Treatise (excerpts)
5. Hamilton, Madison, Jay: The Federalist Papers (excerpts)
6. Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy in America (excerpts)
7. Walter Lippmann: Public Opinion (excerpts)
8. Short articles on democracy today (to be distributed in class)

Course Performance Requirements

1. Midterm examination (45min) : 25 points
2. Final examination (90min): 45 points
3. 4 Friday/weekend papers (2 page length): 30 points

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED: NO MORE THAN TWO
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ALLOWED!**

CALENDAR (subject to adjustments)

**1st week: July 7-10: Introduction: Ancient and Modern freedoms.
Ancient Greek (Athenian) democracy.**

**Readings: Benjamin Constant (online)
Pericles' Funeral Oration, in Thucydides. (online)
Aristotle, Nichomachean Ethics (Books 1,2,8,9)**

**2nd week: July 13-17: Aristotle (continued)
Modern natural rights: John Locke**

**Readings: Nichomachean Ethics
Locke: Two Treatises of Government, Second Treatise,
Chaps. 2,3,5-7, 9-11**

**3rd week: July 20-24: Founding of modern democracy: The American
Constitutional Founding. JULY 23: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Readings: Hamilton, Madison, The Federalist Papers (1, 39, 10,51,57,
70,78)**

4th week: July 27-31: The basic principles of democracy

Readings: Tocqueville, Democracy in America, vol. two, Parts II,IV

**5th week: Aug 3-7: Problems of modern democracy: understanding
global interdependence. AUGUST 7: FINAL EXAM**

Readings: Lippmann, Public Opinion.
Short Magazine articles on the future of democracy.

Important University Policies concerning You
(Please read carefully!)

Disabilities:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs will be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Religious observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, {{insert your procedures here}} See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Learning environment

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation,

gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#studentcode>

Discrimination and harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Academic integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

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