

**Political Science 2004 Survey of Western Political Thought**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Recitation Sections 012 and 014**  
**Ketchum 118**

**Teaching Assistant:** Leslie Ochreiter

leslie.ochreiter@colorado.edu

**Office:** Ketchum 403

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 9am-10:30am, and by appointment

This recitation is designed to further explain the course material and enable students to think critically about concepts, problems, and questions about democracy. Your recitation grade will constitute 1/3 of your overall grade. Email is the University's official form of communication, and so you are expected to check your email at least once per day, in case we email you weekly response assignments or other notifications.

**Requirements:**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Participation</b>	<b>10 %</b>
<b>Weekly Response Papers 1 page</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Short Paper 2-3 pages</b>	<b>10 % (due February 11)</b>
<b>Final Paper 7-10 pages</b>	<b>40% (due April 22)</b>

**Attendance:** 20%. You are permitted **two** unexcused absences per semester without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a deduction of five (5) points from your total recitation grade. If you have **5 or more** unexcused absences you will automatically fail the recitation portion of the course.

**Participation:** 10%. Recitation sections are designed for discussion and participation, thus you should come to class not only having fully read the material but ready to discuss it, raise questions about it, and respond to your colleagues' ideas about it. You should think about how readings relate from week to week by drawing connections as well as differences between them.

**Weekly Response Papers:** 20%. At the beginning of each recitation, you are required to hand in a one page, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, one inch margins, response paper. These are *not* summaries of the readings. To guide your responses, we will email you every week with the questions you should address about the material for the upcoming week.

These papers are mandatory. If you fail to submit **5 or more** response papers you will automatically fail the recitation portion of the course. If you fail to hand in a paper (up to the allotted 5) you will be deducted 5 points off of your final recitation grade for each missing assignment.

**Short Paper:** 10%. The paper is due during the lecture portion of class on Wed. February 11. Your assignment is to write one short paper, 2-3 pages, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font political theory paper. The paper topics will be distributed to you two weeks before the paper's due date. You are required to hand in the hard copy on Wednesday **at the end** of the lecture. You are also required to send an electronic copy via email to me on the same day, before lecture. You should save your paper in the following file format:

Last name\_Paper 1

**Final Paper:** 40%. The paper is due during the lecture portion of the class on Wed. April 22. Your assignment is to write a 7-10 page, double-spaced, 1 inch margin, Times New Roman font political theory paper. You are required to hand in the hard copy on Wednesday **at the end** of lecture. You are also required to send an electronic copy via email to me on the same day, before lecture. You should save your paper in the following format:

Last name\_Paper 2

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the course. I and Prof. Mewes are bound to uphold the University of Colorado at Boulder Honor Code, and any suspected violation of that code will be immediately investigated and handed over to the honor code. To ensure the University's and this class' academic integrity, you are required to read the "Plagiarism Packet" and sign a "Plagiarism Contract". These will be distributed to you via email the first week of class. The signed contract is due to me in recitation (Tuesday, January 20 or Thursday, January 22, depending on which recitation you attend).

Your electronic papers will be checked for plagiarism. Please use a consistent citing format through your paper; give the author, year, and page information. Below you will find some suggestions about how to write a paper.

### **Writing:**

✓ On the first page of the paper, include your name, your TA's name, the Professor's name, date you turn in the paper, and class and recitation section.

✓ Make an argument. Above all, this paper should *not* be a summary of readings. That is not to say you can't use quotes and evidence from the reading – you certainly should – but it should not be simply a regurgitation of what others have said. It is far better to make counterintuitive arguments than to rehash what others have already said, and said well. This does not mean that you have to totally rethink standard ideas. But it does mean you should think carefully and critically about what we're studying, and think about how standard ideas may be paradoxical, how mainstream arguments may actually undermine one another, or how a minor aspect of a common idea has been overlooked.

✓ Consider alternative arguments. Your paper will be much stronger if you explicitly consider and explain why other arguments are not as convincing as the one you present.

✓ Tell the reader what you're writing about, pithily, in the introduction. By the end of your introduction, the reader should know what your topic is, what your main argument is, and how the paper is laid out. It is fine, and even encouraged, to use the first person in the introduction. E.g.: "In this paper I will argue that..."

✓ Use subheadings and paragraphs. Flip through any book or article, and you will almost always see subsections. Even though this paper is short, you should do the same where it helps both you focus your writing, and the reader understand the next topic. Exclude extraneous information and words. Be sure that your writing is focused and you don't include useless sentences or quotes just to fill space or because you don't have something to say. Ask yourself such questions as, "how does this relate to my main argument?", "is this evidence convincing, and why?", "how do different parts of my paper and different arguments relate?", "are my arguments consistent?", etc.

✓ Have a friend/colleague read your paper critically. Choose someone who you think will be honest with you, not someone who will brush over it, saying it's excellent work. Don't take criticism as failure. Writing is a process, and it's as important to edit your work as it is to write a first draft.

✓ Go to the writing center. It doesn't take long, and having a professional assist you with your writing will be immeasurably helpful for this paper, and for your general writing habits. For more information, visit

<http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html>

### **University Policies:**

**Disability:** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services within the first week of class so that your needs are addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

**Religious Observance:** 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, I conform to all university policies. You must inform me in a timely manner if you must miss class or any exam due to religious observance.

**Classroom Behavior:** 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>

[http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

**Discrimination & 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 discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, 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>

**Honor Code:** 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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). 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/>