

PSCI 2004: Survey of Western Political Thought

Professor David Mapel • Fall 2009 • Mon/Wed 10:00 – 10:50am • MCDB – A2B70

PSCI 2004 Recitation

TA: Brian Bernhardt

Section 107: Friday 10:00-10:50am in MUEN – E064

Section 108: 11:00-11:50am in ENVD - 120

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:45pm – 1:45pm, Wednesday 11:00am – 12:00pm and by appointment • **Office:** Ketchum 21

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Course description and goals:

PSCI 2004 recitation is meant to help you develop a deeper understanding of a number of key issues in political philosophy. We will critically discuss readings that touch on almost every aspect of our political life, including democracy, freedom, equality, justice and obligation. In political philosophy we focus not on questions of 'how' or 'why,' but rather on questions of 'ought' and 'should.' Recitation is an opportunity for active, discussion-based learning. You are expected to come to class prepared to participate, which requires careful reading of the text(s) for each week. Be prepared to ask and answer questions and discuss issues related to the readings.

Course requirements and grading:

Recitation will count for 30% of the total course grade, broken down as follows:

Attendance (35%): Attendance is required and students will be penalized for any unexcused absence. In general, attendance will be taken through the administration of a simply quiz at the beginning of recitation. If you fail to answer the quiz correctly, you will not be considered 'present' on that day. Therefore, in order to receive attendance points you need to be in class with a basic understanding of the readings.

Participation (15%): In order to get full credit, you should participate regularly in discussion. Participation will be evaluated on both quality and quantity, and should be relevant to course material.

Study Questions (50%): Each week I will email the class a set of study questions that are designed to help you focus on significant aspects of the week's readings and prepare you for discussion. You will be required to turn in thoughtful responses to the questions at the *beginning* of recitation – late submissions (at the end for class, for example) will *not* be accepted. Your responses should be typed in 12 point font and single spaced. I will collect study questions every week and randomly grade six, dropping the lowest grade.

Readings: All of the readings are expected to be completed *before* recitation.

Throughout the semester there will be readings that are accessible via the class website:

<<http://sobek.colorado.edu/~mapel>>

To access the readings you will need the following information:

Username : mapelclass

Password: Lucifer

University and course policies:

Computer Policy: Because this is a discussion-based course that requires active participation, computer use is *not* allowed.

Honor code: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you have questions about plagiarism (e.g. how to properly cite sources), ASK! 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; 303-725-2273). 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 nonacademic 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>

Disability accommodations: 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 may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Religious observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students needing to miss class or exams for religious observances must inform the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. See full details at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. 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. 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 term so that I may appropriately update my records. For more details, see: <http://colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

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 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. 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>