

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2004-300

SURVEY OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

FALL 2009

Instructor: Ozge Celik
Department of Political Science
Office: Ketchum 105
Office Hours: MWF 1:30pm-2:30pm & by appointment
Email: ozge.celik@colorado.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed as a broad exploration of the history of western political thought. We will cover a selection of the major theories and thinkers from Antiquity to the 20th century. Throughout the course you will become acquainted with the questions and ideas that shaped the way we think about politics. This course aims at providing a foundation for more advanced study in political theory.

We will examine some of the perennial questions in political philosophy regarding freedom, democracy, justice, rights, the proper role of government, the source of our political obligations, and the meaning of political action. We will explore possible answers to these questions in the texts of some major political thinkers. In political philosophy there is never a final authority to settle the disagreement between the political thinkers on the possible answers to these most basic questions. Their disagreement makes it possible for us to enter into their conversation. Therefore, throughout the course our aim will be to learn to think critically about the ideas and theories presented in these texts. In doing this we will pay particular attention to the concept of freedom and study these texts with an eye to their contemporary relevance for human freedom.

GRADING CRITERIA:

First Midterm: 15% (September 23)
Second Midterm: 20% (October 28)
Final Examination: 40%
Paper (10 pages): 20% (Due November 2)
Attendance: 5%

Note: You must pass each component in order to receive a passing grade for this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Quentin Skinner and Russell Price eds. (Cambridge)

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, C. B. Macpherson ed. (Hackett)
Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*, Donald A. Cress trans. (Hackett)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

COMMUNICATION:

The University of Colorado considers email an *official* form of communication. You are responsible for checking your *colorado.edu* account regularly to ensure receipt of important course information (e.g., schedule changes, review materials, etc.).

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me 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. The University's policies on disability accommodations can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMODATIONS:

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 (a week before) if you must miss class or any exam due to religious observance. http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

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. The University's policies on classroom behavior can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

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. 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).

See the Honor Code websites at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/> for more information.

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>

I also require you to sign a "Plagiarism Contract" in this class. **This is due on Friday September 4, 2009.**

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

WEEK 1

August 24: **Introduction: What is political theory?**

August 26: **Introduction to the Ancients: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle**
Plato *Apology* (21-34)

August 28: **Plato *Apology* (34-49)**

WEEK 2

August 31: **Plato *Republic* Book 1 (327a-354c) (31 pages)**

September 2: **Plato *Republic* Book 2 (357-369b) (11 pages), Book 3 (414b-417b) (4 pages)**

September 4: **Plato *Republic* Book 4 (29 pages)**

WEEK 3

September 7: **Labor Day Holiday**

September 9: **Plato *Republic* Book 5 (471c-480a) (11 pages)**

September 11: **Plato *Republic* Book 7 (514a-521c) (8 pages), Book 8 (28 pages)**

WEEK 4

September 14: **Aristotle *Politics* Book 1 (chapters 1-7, 12-13) (12 pages), Book 2 (chapters 1-6) (9 pages)**

September 16: **Aristotle *Politics* Book 3 (chapters 1, 4, 6-7, 9, 13) (15 pages)**

September 18: **Aristotle *Politics* Book 4 (chapters 3-4, 7-9, 11-12) (15 pages)**

WEEK 5

September 21: **Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* (TBA)**

September 23: **FIRST MIDTERM (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle)**

September 25: **Thucydides** Pericles's Funeral Oration

WEEK 6

September 28: **Constant** Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns

September 30: **Machiavelli** *Prince* (TBA)

October 2: **Machiavelli** *Prince* (TBA)

WEEK 7

October 5: **Thomas More** *Utopia* (TBA)

October 7: **Introduction to Social Contract Theory**

October 9: **Hobbes** *Leviathan* (TBA)

WEEK 8

October 12: **Hobbes** *Leviathan* (TBA)

October 14: **Locke** *Second Treatise of Government* §4-51 (23 pages)

October 16: **Locke** *Second Treatise of Government* §87-90, §95-99, §119-142, §149-150, §211-227
(28 pages)

WEEK 9

October 19: Susan Dunn, Rousseau's Political Triptych
Rousseau *Second Discourse* (TBA)

October 21: **Rousseau** *Second Discourse* (TBA)

October 23: **Rousseau** *On the Social Contract* (TBA)

WEEK 10

October 26: **Rousseau** *On the Social Contract* (TBA)

October 28: **SECOND MIDTERM (Thucydides, Constant, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau)**

October 30: **Isaiah Berlin** *Two Concepts of Liberty* (TBA)

WEEK 11

November 2: **Isaiah Berlin** *Two Concepts of Liberty* (TBA)

November 4: **Mill** *On Liberty* (Chapter 1)

November 6: **Mill** *On Liberty* (Chapter 2)

WEEK 12

November 9: **Mill** *On Liberty* (Chapter 3)

November 11: **Mill** *On Liberty* (Chapter 4 and 5)

November 13: **Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory**
How to write the papers & what is expected

WEEK 13

November 16: **Nietzsche** *Genealogy of Morals* "Good and Evil, Good and Bad" (§1-9)

November 18: **Nietzsche** *Genealogy of Morals* "Good and Evil, Good and Bad" (§10-17)

November 20: **PAPERS DUE; Kant** "An Answer to the Question: 'What is Enlightenment?'"

WEEK 14 -Fall Break

November 23: Fall Break

November 25: Fall Break

November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday

WEEK 15

November 30: **Foucault** "What is Enlightenment?"

December 2: **Arendt** *The Human Condition* (7-17, Introduction)

December 4: **Arendt** *The Human Condition* (175-207, Action)

WEEK 16

December 7: **Arendt** *The Human Condition* (207-243, Action)

December 9: **Arendt** "What is Freedom?"

December 11: **Final Lecture**

FINAL EXAM

