

PSCI 2004: History of Western Political Thought

Fall 2010

David Cox

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Office Hours: Tue 9-10, Wed 9-10, or by appointment

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Course Description

Welcome to PSCI 2004: History of Western Political Thought! This class will introduce you to the history of political thought. We will explore the writings of political philosophers/theorists to understand how they dealt with pressing political issues. Our discussions will focus on political obligation, the social contract/constitutionalism, and modern liberalism. We will try to clarify concepts but not necessarily resolve overarching tensions. The possibility that these issues may be intractable looms large. Thus, you will be asked to form opinions, and supporting arguments without definite evidence.

Recitation Requirements

Your recitation grade represents 30% of your total course grade. Your performance will be evaluated by the following:

35% Attendance/Preparation – recitation attendance is *mandatory*. Since this is a discussion class, it is not enough that you are just “present,” you must also be prepared. Missing *half* of your recitations will result in you *failing* the course. One unexcused absence will be forgiven; further absences will require a doctor’s note, etc.

15% Participation – It is your responsibility to come to class prepared. Since recitation only meets once a week, you are responsible for having done *all* that week’s readings. Your grade will depend on your contribution to class discussions.

50% Study Questions – you will receive study questions weekly via email. Your answers must be typed and turned in before class begins. Six assignments will be graded at *random*; the lowest grade will be dropped for five graded assignments.

All assignments should be typed with one inch margins, 12-point font, times new roman. Please do not use a cover sheet and please staple your pages together. A grade letter may be deducted for improper formatting.

Classroom Policies

- 1). Cell phones should be silenced.
- 2). No disrespectful or inappropriate comments allowed.

Online Resources

When you go to the class webpage, click on the course tab at the top of the page and then go to History of Political Thought for Fall ‘10. This will bring you to the course syllabus, all of the readings and assignments are listed/linked there. I have provided this helpful cheat-sheet for you:

Class Website	http://sobek.colorado.edu/~mapel
Username	Mapelclass
Password	Lucifer