

PSCI 2004: Introduction to Western Political Thought

Fall semester 2018 • Tu and Th 11-11:50 am • HUMN 1B50

Instructor: Steve Vanderheiden

Office: Ketchum 240 • Office Hours: Tu & Th 12-1 and by appointment

E-mail: vanders@colorado.edu • Phone: 303-492-7440

Teaching assistants:

Ferdinand Flagstad (ferdinand.flagstad@colorado.edu): 017, 018

Kimberly Killen (kimberly.killen@colorado.edu): sections 015, 016

SeongJun Kim (sjkim@colorado.edu): sections 012, 014

Zoe Moss (zoe.moss@colorado.edu): sections: 011, 013

Course Description:

This course, which serves as an introduction to political theory, surveys the development of Western political thought from ancient Athens through the 21st Century, including canonical as well as contemporary texts. Taking as the core problem of politics the need for people to organize themselves within society in pursuit of common as well as individual objectives, the course examines the various norms and values offered as worthy of collective pursuit and the manner in which these norms are employed in the design of politics and society. The course is organized major authors and primary texts from the Western canon, most of which shall be assigned in their entirety, with lectures organized around understanding and interpreting those texts, as well as gleaning from them key analytical principles or ideas that can assist in the understanding of contemporary social and political value conflicts.

The course is intended to offer critical perspectives on a range of historical and normative political ideals, and does not advocate any particular ideological position or value system.

Course requirements and grading:

There are three main categories of graded components to the course:

1. **Exams** (65 percent): There will be three exams given over the course of the semester. The first two will be held in class on September 27 and November 1, and are worth 20 points each. The final exam will be held on December 15 and is worth 25 points. All three exams will be comprised of multiple-choice and short answer questions, and the final exam will also include an essay question. Further details on and a study guide for each exam will be provided in class.
2. **Short papers** (20 percent): Students will be assigned to write four short (2-3 page) papers on topics to be announced over the course of the semester (in between exam weeks). Students will have one week to complete each paper. Further details on the paper assignments, as well as tips for writing papers, will be provided in class.
3. **Recitation participation** (15 percent): Students will be assessed on their attendance and participation in weekly recitation sections, with approximately one point possible for each recitation meeting. Assessment will be based on preparation for discussion of assigned course texts as well as weekly recitation reading assignments, along with any further exercises deemed appropriate by the course's teaching assistants.

Late papers and make-up exams resulting from unexcused absences shall be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor, and with an appropriate penalty. All students must take the final exam during its scheduled slot, except as allowed under CU's final exam policy.

Texts:

There are five required hard copy texts for the course, all of which are available for purchase in the CU bookstore. Used copies of each should be readily available, online or through the bookstore, and can be located using ISBN codes below. All books for the course have been published in multiple editions; be sure to check with the instructor if planning to use alternate editions to verify that assigned readings from the various texts will be available, and note that editor's introductions and pagination are likely to vary with editions other those listed.

Plato, *The Republic* (ISBN: 9780140455113)
Hobbes, *Leviathan* (ISBN: 9780140431957)
Locke, *Second Treatise* (ISBN: 9780915144860)
Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (ISBN: 9780199535736)
Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (ISBN: 9780140447576)

Please notify the instructor if the CU bookstore runs out of any of the above-listed titles. Other assigned texts will be available electronically (in .pdf format), through the course's D2L page, and are listed as such in the Reading and Lecture Schedule, below.

University and course policies:

Disability accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

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. 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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

Discrimination and harassment: The CU-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 and the above referenced policies can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Honor code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation: The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Excused absences: At the instructor's discretion, students may be given opportunities to make up exams missed as the result of documented illnesses (with note from health care provider) or other (documented) emergencies, religious observances, or official university activities. Wherever possible, students should inform the instructor in advance of such absences in order to make necessary arrangements. The instructor reserves the right to distinguish excusable from non-excusable absences.

Classroom etiquette: Students are expected to arrive in the classroom by the scheduled start time and to remain until class is dismissed. Laptop computers and other electronic devices cannot be used in class without the prior consent of the instructor, and shall be subject to appropriate use restrictions. All students are welcome to participate in classroom discussion, and must allow others to do the same.

Intellectual property: Apart from the assigned course texts, most of which are in the public domain or are the property of publishers, the content of course lectures shall remain the intellectual property of the instructor. Students are welcome (and encouraged!) to take notes from lectures, but may not make audio, video, or still photographic recordings of lectures or lecture slides without the express written consent of the instructor. Students may share their lecture notes, but may not sell them to each other or to third party sites. Extended excerpts from lecture slides will be made available in advance of class on D2L, but full lecture slides will not be available online or otherwise to students, except as viewed during office hours.

Reading and Lecture Schedule:

Lectures will focus upon the readings assigned for a given day, as indicated below. Assigned texts for the main lecture should be read by the day for which they are listed below; texts assigned for each week's recitation should be read in advance if that week's recitation meeting. The instructor reserves the prerogative to modify this schedule as needed.

August 28: Introduction (no reading assignment)
August 30: Plato, *Republic* (Introduction, Parts 1-2)
Recitation: introduction to recitation (no reading assignment)

September 4: Plato, *Republic* (Parts 3-4)
September 6: Plato, *Republic* (read Parts 8-9), first paper assigned
Recitation: Huxley, from *Brave New World* (D2L)

September 11: Plato, *Republic* (Parts 5-7)
September 13: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (editor's Introduction, chs. 1-8), first paper due
Recitation: from Levitsky & Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die* (D2L)

September 18: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (chs. 9-16)
September 20: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (chs. 17-24),
Recitation: Arendt, from *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (D2L)

September 25: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (chs. 25-31)
September 27: first exam (in class)
Recitation: exam preparation (no additional reading assignment)

October 2: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Introduction, chs. 1-7
October 4: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs. 8-19
Recitation: Nozick, from *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (D2L)

October 9: Locke, "A Letter Concerning Toleration" (D2L), second paper assigned
October 11: Smith, from *The Wealth of Nations*; and Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (D2L)
Recitation: Allen, *et al*, "What Is Education For?" (D2L)

October 16: Rousseau, from *A Discourse on Inequality* (D2L), second paper due
October 18: Madison, *Federalist #10 & 51*; Letters of Cato, Brutus (D2L)
Recitation: Dahl, from *How Democratic is the American Constitution?* (D2L)

October 23: Wollstonecraft, "Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (D2L)
October 25: Thoreau, "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience" (D2L)
Recitation: Frye, from *The Politics of Reality* (D2L)

October 30: Tocqueville, from *Democracy in America* (D2L)
November 1: second exam (in class)
Recitation: exam preparation (no additional reading assignment)

November 6: Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. 1-2,
November 8: Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. 3-5 third paper assigned
Recitation: from Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (D2L)

November 13: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chs. 1-4,
November 15: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chs. 5-7, third paper due
Recitation: Lessig, *et al*, “Democracy After *Citizens United*” (D2L)

November 19-23: Fall/Thanksgiving break (no class)

November 27: Marx & Engles, *The Communist Manifesto*, Part I, § 8-12,
November 29: Marx & Engles, *The Communist Manifesto*, Part II (entire)
Recitation: Kearney, “How Should Governments Address Inequality?” (D2L)

December 4: Goldman, from *Anarchism and Other Essays* (D2L)
December 6: Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (condensed) (D2L), fourth paper assigned
Recitation: Scott, “For Politics” (D2L)

December 12: Fanon, from *Black Skin, White Masks* (D2L)
December 14: Conclusions (no reading assignment), fourth paper due
Recitation: Johnson, “To Remake the World: Slavery, Racial Capitalism, and Justice” (D2L)

December 15 (Saturday), 1:30-3:10 pm: **final exam**