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Political Science 534
Graduate Seminar in Political Theory

Spring, 1996
Professor: Perrin

Text: Losco & Williams, *Political Theory: Classic Writings, Contemporary Views*.

Meeting schedule and topics.

February 6, Plato.

February 20, Aristotle.

February 27, Machiavelli.

March 5, Hobbes.

March 19, Hegel.

March 26, Marx.

April 16, Mill.

April 23, Habermas.

Our seminar sessions will be one and one-half hours in length. The first part of the session will be taken up with a discussion of the excerpts from the primary sources, i.e., the respective theorists identified in the above schedule. Perrin will enlarge upon the material in these excerpts as the conversations warrant.

The second segment of our sessions will be taken up with discussion and analysis of the secondary commentaries. Here the emphasis will be upon analysis and critical interpretation of the various essays. In order to provide some focus and structure to these discussions, students should be prepared to highlight what seems to be the most important points the author is making and b) comment on the quality and significance of the author's interpretation.

One third of the course grade will be based upon the quality of each student's contribution to the seminar discussions, with some emphasis given to the student's performance as facilitator. Two-thirds of the final grade will be determined by the quality of a term paper (minimum length, 10 pages). The format of the term paper will mirror that of the seminar session. The subject of the term paper will be a theorist we are not considering in our scheduled class meetings.