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PSC 250E.02: Political Theory

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Fall 1996

Botany 307 12:10-1 Mon Wed Fri

Instructor: Bill Chaloupka (office Rankin Hall 101A) 243-6111. I check my voice-mail regularly. Also, I welcome E-mail: billc@selway.umn.edu

Office Hours: 2:10-3 Tues., 10:10-11 Weds., 11-noon Thurs., or by appointment. If these office hours are not convenient, please call for an appointment, or just stop by.

Teaching Assistants: (to be announced)

Catalog description: 3 credits. Analysis of the various attempts (from Plato to Marx) to explain, instruct, and justify the distribution of political power in society. Emphasis is placed upon those theories whose primary concern is to define the nature of the "good" society.

Additional description: Politics differs from other fields of human knowledge and action. As opposed to many other human realms, many of the most important political questions remain essentially contested, even after 2500 years of posing those questions in surprisingly consistent ways. This course is an introduction to the outlines of that long discussion. In addition to the "good society" emphasis mentioned above, we will also emphasize ethical questions: that is, how people think about their decisions to act ethically, in view of their values and aspirations.

Texts:

Portis, *Reconstructing the Classics: Political Theory from Plato to Marx* (Chatham House)

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Penguin)

Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (Hackett)

Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, edited by Frederic Bender (Norton)

Williams, Patricia, *The Alchemy of Race and Rights* (Harvard)

photocopy packet at UC Bookstore, as explained in class; includes Plato's "Crito," an excerpt from Plato's *The Republic*, a selection from Hobbes's "Leviathan," and a Burke excerpt.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes, and to take three exams. The first exam counts 20%, the second exam counts 30%, and the final (a comprehensive exam) counts 50%. No "extra credit" is available, but consideration will be given to those who improve their exam scores during the semester, and who actively contribute questions and discussion. A research paper alternative may be offered in lieu of the final exam.

Although the concerns of this class may seem to be less timely than those encountered in other Political Science classes, we will be concerned with contemporary political questions. Therefore, as in all Political Science classes, students are expected to read a daily newspaper, or an equivalent. (Suggestions: the *Missoulian*, *Spokesman Review*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post National Weekly Edition*. Newspapers are available to read without charge in the library and in several other locations around campus.)

(more)

Assignment Schedule

NOTE: Assignments should be read before the class session on the line where they are listed.

WEEK	Day	DATE	DAY	READINGS	TOPIC
1	1	4-Sep	WED		Introduction
	2	6-Sep	FRI	Portis, preface, ch. 1 & 2	Theory/ Knowledge/ Opinion
2	3	9-Sep	MON	Plato, "Crito" (in readings packet)	Legitimacy, change, and moral commitments
	4	11-Sep	WED	Review Portis 2 and Crito	Plato and Socrates: Truth, Beauty, Justice & the Athenian Way
	5	13-Sep	FRI	Review & catch up	Discussion
3	6	16-Sep	MON	Plato "Republic" (in readings packet)	Plato; Ideals and Politics
	16-Sep	MON		<i>Department approved applications for Spring 97 graduation due in the Registration Center</i>	
	7	18-Sep	WED	Portis, chpt. 3	Aristotle; Nature (with a cap N)
	8	20-Sep	FRI	catch-up day	Conclude Aristotle; Discussion
4	9	23-Sep	MON	Portis, chpt. 4	Augustine & Christianity
	23-Sep	MON		<i>Last day to pay fees. or add classes</i>	
	10	25-Sep	WED	no reading; prep for Fri.	Aquinas and the Middle Ages
	11	27-Sep	FRI	REVIEW	Bring Questions.
5	12	30-Sep	MON	EXAM ONE	No blue books needed. If you know you are going to miss the exam, you must notify the instructor or TA before the exam.
	13	2-Oct	WED	Portis, chpt. 5	Machiavelli, intro, with comments on Aquinas & medievalism
	14	4-Oct	FRI	Mach., through chpt. 5	Necessity and Virtue
6	15	7-Oct	MON	Mach., through chpt. 13	Public & Private ... & why de Borgia, MT is a great name
	16	9-Oct	WED	Finish Machiavelli	Patriotism & Nationalism
	17	11-Oct	FRI	catch-up day	Discussion
7	18	14-Oct	MON	Portis, chpt. 6	Hobbes: Modernity arrives
	14-Oct	MON		LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR CHANGE GRADE OPTIONS	
	19	16-Oct	WED	Hobbes reading (in readings packet)	Individualism and public morality
	20	18-Oct	FRI	catch-up day	Discussion
8	21	21-Oct	MON	Portis, chpt. 7	Introducing Locke
	22	23-Oct	WED	Locke, intro, pp. 5-18	Locke: Human nature, Citizenship and contract
	23	25-Oct	FRI	Locke, 18-32, 52-65	Freedom (Rights) & Authority (Stability)
9	24	28-Oct	MON	Locke, 65-83	Life, Liberty, & Property
	25	30-Oct	WED	Locke, 101-116	Politics and minimalism
	26	1-Nov	FRI	catch-up day	Discussion

(more)

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
10	27	4-Nov	MON	Portis, chpt. 8	Wisdom and politics/ Rousseau: Popular will
	28	6-Nov	WED	reading in Fac Pac	Burke: Conservatism, authority
	29	8-Nov	FRI	Portis, chpt. 9	Liberalism after Locke (Bentham, Mill)
11	11-Nov	MON	HOLIDAY -NO CLASS		
	12-Nov	TUE	<i>Phone Preregistration for Spring Semester begins</i>		
30	13-Nov	WED	REVIEW		
	15-Nov	FRI	EXAM TWO		
			No blue books needed. If you know you are going to miss the exam, you must notify the instructor or TA before the exam.		
12	31	18-Nov	MON	Bender, Preface (vii) and "Historical Backgrounds	Hegel: the extended state
	32	20-Nov	WED	"Portis, chpt 10	Marx & radicalism
	33	22-Nov	FRI	Manifesto, first half	alienation, revolution and the dialectic
13	34	25-Nov	MON	Manifesto, second half	conclusion Marx, comments on political thought in this century
	25-Nov	MON	<i>Phone Preregistration for Spring Semester ends</i>		
	27-Nov	WED	HOLIDAY -NO CLASS		
	29-Nov	FRI	HOLIDAY -NO CLASS		
14	35	2-Dec	MON	Williams, I-1 and I-2	Excluded Voices and Contemporary Theory
	36	4-Dec	WED	Williams, I-3, all of II	Knowledge and Power
	37	6-Dec	FRI	Williams, III-7 and III-8	Politics and Faith
15	38	9-Dec	MON	Williams, III-9 and IV-10	Self and Rights
	39	11-Dec	WED	Williams, finish; Portis, chpt. 11	Identity and Politics; Conclusions
	40	13-Dec	FRI	REVIEW	Class evaluation, review questions answered, review sheet distributed
8-9:30 am	20-Dec	FRI	FINAL EXAM		
			No blue books needed. If you know you are going to miss the exam, you must notify the instructor or TA before the exam.		

This is the official time for the PSc 250 final. If you have a conflicting final, consult the teacher of that class—they are in violation of the schedule. University rules permit finals make-ups only if you have three finals on one day. Please plan your travel accordingly.

Grades will be posted at noon, Monday Dec. 23, at Rankin 101A. Please don't try to inquire before then. Bring a self-addressed envelope (to class, or to the instructor's mailbox in EVST) to receive your test and grade by mail. Grades and exam scores can also be sent by e-mail (billc@selway.umt.edu). Exams will be available at the beginning of spring term in the instructor's office.