

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Spring 2-1-1997

### PSC 534.01: Graduate Seminar in Political Theory

Ronald F. Perrin

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [ronald.perrin@umontana.edu](mailto:ronald.perrin@umontana.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Perrin, Ronald F., "PSC 534.01: Graduate Seminar in Political Theory" (1997). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 8531.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/8531>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

Political Science 534  
Graduate Seminar in Political Theory

Spring, 1997  
Professor: Perrin

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

Meeting schedule and topics.

February 4, Plato.

February 11, Aristotle.

February 18, Machiavelli.

February 25, Hobbes.

March 4, Locke.

March 11, Rousseau.

March 18, Hegel.

March 25, Marx.

April 1, Mill.

April 8, Arendt.

April 15, Habermas.

Our seminar sessions will be two and one-half hours in length. The first part of the session will be spent discussing the excerpts from the primary sources, i.e., the respective theorists identified in the above schedule. Each student should come to the sessions with a brief statement of what they found most difficult or problematic in the selection from the main theorist, e.g. Plato, Aristotle, et al. We will begin the session by comparing those statements and then use them as the basis of our discussion.

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, each student will come with a brief statement of what seems to be the most important point or points the author is making. Since we are working with interpretations of our major thinkers, one of the important things you will be doing with these commentaries is assessing the character and quality of the interpretations. You should be asking yourself such questions as; "is this interpretation sympathetic, hostile, or constructively critical"? or, "does the interpretation harbor a hidden agenda, e.g. is the author distorting the meaning and/or intent of the essay's subject"?

In both cases the statements should not be longer than one page. They should be typewritten and turned in at the end of each session.

One-half of the course grade will be based upon the quality of each student's contribution to the seminar discussions, i.e., their opening statements and contributions to the subsequent discussions. One-half 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 sessions. Students will be expected to select from one of the journals of political theory and/or philosophy an interpretive essay or essays on a major figure or issue in political theory. The paper will present and evaluate the chosen subject matter.