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PSC 150E.02: Introduction to Political Theory

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POLITICAL THEORY POLSC 150E-2 150

Fall 1998 Rankin 202 10:10-11 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.umt.edu

Office Hours: 10-11 am Tues., 9-10 am Weds and Thurs., or by appointment. If these office hours are not convenient, please call for an appointment, or just stop by. I am usually in my office, especially during morning hours.

Teaching Assistant: (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*, introduced by Vladimir Posner (Bantam)
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," the Declaration of the Rights of Man, 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.

Like other ways of understanding politics, political theory is constantly 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.)

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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	31-Aug	MON		Introduction
	2	2-Sep	WED	Portis, preface, ch. 1 & 2	What is Political Theory? Basic Questios Recur. Studying Classic Texts. The Central Issues. Legitimacy and Authority
	3	4-Sep	FRI		video
2	4	9-Sep	WED	Plato, "Crito" (in readings packet)	Socrates: Politics and Moral Commitments. Access to Truth. Loyalty to Two Masters. Ethical Dilemmas. Community & Self.
	5	11-Sep	FRI	Review Portis 2 and Crito	Plato and Socrates: Thrasymachus. Force and Truth. Opinion. Debate and Difference. Standards. Socratic Method.
3	6	14-Sep	MON	Plato "Republic" (in readings packet)	Plato's Cave Metaphor. Justice. Nature. Idealism. Leadership and Teaching. Danger and Truth. Forms.
		14Sep	*MON*	*Department approved applications for Spring 97 graduation due in the Registration Center*	
	7	16-Sep	WED	Portis, chpt. 3	Aristotle; Utopians and Centrists. Harmony and Diversity. Radicalism and Moderation. Balance and Clarity. Rule of the Best.
	8	18-Sep	FRI	catch-up day	Conclude Aristotle; Discussion
4	9	21-Sep	MON	Portis, chpt. 4	Augustine: Philosophy & Christianity. Progress. Levels of Knowledge. Just War. Politics and Ethical Judgement.
		21Sep	*MON*	*Last day to pay fees. or add and drop using Dial Bear*	
	10	23-Sep	WED	Portis, chpt. 5	Aquinas and the Middle Ages. Natural Law. Christianity and Politics, Revised. Property and Ethical Judgement.
	11	25-Sep	FRI	REVIEW	Bring Questions.
5	12	28-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. Telephone messages are acceptable.
	13	30-Sep	WED	Portis, chpt. 6	Machiavelli: Who Should Rule? Evil in Politics. Ends and Means. Public and Private. The Modern Nation State. The Role of Security.
	14	2-Oct	FRI	Mach., through chpt. 5	Rule by a Prince. Politics and Context. Violence. Friendship. Rebellion. Contingency. Rewards of Ruling. Necessity and Virtue
6	15	5-Oct	MON	Mach., through chpt. 13	Prince as an Actor. Myth and Politics. Success and Failure. Borgia and Alexander. Crisis. Deception. More on Security.
	16	7-Oct	WED	Finish Machiavelli	Patriotism & Nationalism. War. Appearance and Reality. Fox and Lion. The Prince's First Victim. The Future of the State.
	17	9-Oct	FRI	catch-up day	Discussion
7	18	12-Oct	MON	Portis, chpt. 7	Hobbes: Modernity arrives. Leviathan. Science and Secular Politics. Mathematics. Moral Geometry. Individualism.
		12Oct	*MON*	*Last day to drop a class with a drop form. Also last day to change grading option.*	
	19	14-Oct	WED	Hobbes reading (in readings packet)	Human Nature. Individualism. War of All Against All. State of Nature. Compact. Leviathan in the Bible. Liberalism.
	20	16-Oct	FRI	catch-up day	Discussion

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WEEK	Day	DATE	DAY	READINGS	TOPIC
8	21	19-Oct	MON	Portis, chpt. 8	Introducing Locke. His Influence. The Autonomous Self. Liberty. Rights. Equal Rights. Contract. Property. Money and Spoilage.
	22	21-Oct	WED	Locke, intro, pp. 5-18	State of Nature. Origins. Human Nature and Citizenship. Social Contract. Minimal Government. State as Umpire.
	23	23-Oct	FRI	Locke, 18-32, 52-65	Freedom (Rights) & Authority (Stability). Injustice and Remedy. Right to Rebel.
9	24	26-Oct	MON	Locke, 65-83	Life, Liberty, & Property
	25	28-Oct	WED	Locke, 101-116	Politics and minimalism. Interpretations of Locke. Promise or Trap?
	26	30-Oct	FRI	Portis, chpt. 9	Rousseau: Popular will. Another Social Contract. Romanticism. Human Potential. Education. Back to Nature. Rebellion.
10	27	2-Nov	MON	reading in Fac Pac: Rights of Man, Burke	Burke: Conservatism, Authority. Tradition. Accumulated Knowledge. Reason and Change. Contemporary Conservatives.
		2Nov	*TUE*	*Advising begins for Spring 1998. See your advisor.*	
	28	4-Nov	WED	Portis, chpt. 10	Liberalism after Locke (Bentham, Mill). Utilitarians. Markets. On Liberty. Social Development. Diversity. Economic Inequality.
	29	6-Nov	FRI	REVIEW	Bring Questions.
11	30	9-Nov	MON	**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.
		10-Nov	*TUE*	*Phone Preregistration for Spring Semester begins*	
		11-Nov	WED	Holiday. No Class	
	31	13-Nov	FRI	Marx: Pozner Introduction.	Hegel: Challenge to Individualism. Society and Progress. Dynamics of Change. Idealism Updated. Dialectic.
12	32	16-Nov	MON	Portis, chpt 11	Why Study Marx? Capitalism. Economics and Politics. Class and Progress. Materialism. Revolution. Alienation and Work.
	33	18-Nov	WED	Manifesto, to p. 32	Class history. Capitalism as Disruption. Property and the State. Production. Withering the State. Role of the Police.
	34	20-Nov	FRI	Manifesto, finish	Seeds of Capitalism's Demise. Property, Politics, and Society. Software Example. Leadership and Change.
13	35	23-Nov	MON	Williams, I-1 and I-2	Excluded Voices. A Big Dog Story. Categories. Property and Personhood. Her Shape, His Hand. Public and Private, Revisited.
		23-Nov	*MON*	*Phone Preregistration for Spring Semester ends*	
		25-Nov	WED	**HOLIDAY -NO CLASS**	
		27-Nov	FRI	**HOLIDAY -NO CLASS**	
14	35	30-Nov	MON	Williams, I-3, all of II	Knowledge and Power. Equal Opportunity. Standards. Subject Position. Rights Talk. The Law and Justice.
	36	2-Dec	WED	Williams, III-7 and III-8	Identity Politics. Self and Society. Professionalism. Discipline and Authority. Contemporary Power and Coersion.
	37	4-Dec	FRI	Williams, III-9 and IV-10	Self and Rights
		4-Dec	*FRI*	*Last day to Withdraw from classes.*	

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WEEK	Day	DATE	DAY	READINGS	TOPIC
15	38	7-Dec	MON	Williams, finish	Identity and Politics; the change in the character of power in this century; discipline and the self, professions
	39	9-Dec	WED	Portis, chpt. 12	Conclusions. Political Theory in This Century. Totalitarianism, Welfare State liberalism; the Conservative Turn; Other approaches
	40	11-Dec	FRI	REVIEW	Review, Class evaluation, review sheet distributed
10:10-noon		17-Dec	THU	**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 150 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.

By University policy, grades can no longer be posted. We will gladly notify you of your grade by mail or e-mail. 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 (send your address to billc@selway.umt.edu). Grades will be ready at noon, Monday Dec. 21. Please don't try to inquire before then. Exams will be available at the beginning of spring term in the instructor's office.