

Dept. of Political Science
Political Theory
Fall 2009

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SYLLABUS

Political Science 450 Section 1 212 Brackett Hall 2:00-3:15 TTh

Office Hours: I have a schedule that requires that I be out of the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I am in my office before and after class and by appointment (can also be on Wednesday if necessary).

TTh 10:00-2:00pm
 3:15-4:30pm
I will also be available on Tuesday evenings.

Required Texts: Michael L Morgan, Classics of Moral and Political Theory (4th Edition) Other readings as necessary

Course Requirements:

Midterm Exam	25%
Reports	25%
Final Exam	40%
Pop Tests	5%
Class Participation	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Attendance:

I will use a seating chart to keep track of who comes to class. Regular attendance and participation are expected. I remind you of this statement in the 'Academic Regulations' for this class: "The last day before, and the first day after, official holidays are considered to be the same as any other day on which classes are scheduled." Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your class participation grade. **Three absences will result in a lowering of your overall class grade.** Please let me know if you must be absent from class before the class meeting. Any student tardy for class should inform the instructor *after the lecture* so that the student will not be counted absent. In the event you miss a test: (1) Let my office know before the exam what your situation is, and (2) within one week of your return provide me with a written, signed explanation of your reasons for missing the exam. Makeup tests will be given for excused absences the last week of class. No "extra credit" work is given in this class. In the unlikely event that I am late to class, students should remain in the classroom for fifteen minutes before leaving. Please take care of your biological needs before class. While you do not need the professor's permission to leave class, constant movement is a

distraction to both the teacher and the students. *All cell phones should be turned off during class. You must bring the textbook or required reading to class each meeting.*

Computer Use: It is the policy of the university to encourage students to bring laptop computers to class for note-taking. I support the university policy, however if any student uses the wireless network to answer emails or surf the internet during class I will take actions to lower the class grade of that student.

Assignments:

The reading assignment should be completed before the class each day. Short exams will be given to evaluate student familiarity with the material on any Tuesday or Thursday. These grades will constitute your pop test grade for the course.

Reports:

Each student will write three reports due on seven dates. I will distribute the topic to students one week before the paper is due. Each essay will be returned with a rubric as an explanation for the grade. Every student must write one report by September 15. Topics will include the following: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Luther & Calvin, Hobbes & Locke, Rousseau, Burke & Smith, Hegel, Marx & Communism, Nietzsche & Facism, Postmodernism.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Is the final cumulative? *Yes*
2. What about absences? *Absences (unexcused) will lower your class participation grade and three will lower your overall course grade. Excused absences will be noted on the class roll.*
3. What about tardiness? *It is OK to be late to class once or twice, but continued tardiness will result in a lowering of your grade. Check with me after class to confirm your attendance in class.*
4. What about the reports? *The report is be 1,000 words and will make a point like a theme. Be specific and document from the reading and other sources. Students are welcome to use other sources, but the purpose of the assignment is to teach clarity in writing and expression, not documentation for research. Students tell me that it is helpful sometimes to discuss the report with me before it is due, I agree with that and am available for discussion.*
5. Is “extra credit” work possible? *No, your grade is a result of the total points in the class requirement section above.*
6. How do I study for your tests? *Take good notes and review the reading. You should have a good understanding of the readings before the exam. There will be a*

quotation section of each examination, where authors and their works must be identified. The exams combine objective and essay elements.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Aug. 23-24	Introduction
Week 2	Aug. 27-31	Sophocles & Plato
Week 3	Sept. 3-7	Plato and Aristotle
Week 4	Sept. 10-14	Aristotle and Cicero
Week 5	Sept. 17-21	Augustine and Aquinas
Week 6	Sept. 24-28	Aquinas and Machiavelli, Science
Week 7	Oct. 1-5	Luther and Calvin
Week 8	Oct. 8-12	Hobbes and Locke
	Oct. 15-16	Fall Break
Week 9	Oct. 17-19	Locke and Rousseau
		Midterm Exam – October 19th
Week 10	Oct. 22-26	Burke, Smith and Conservatism
Week 11	Oct. 29 – Nov. 2	Bentham and J.S. Mill
Week 12	Nov. 5-9	Hegel and Marx, Communism
Week 13	Nov. 12-16	Nietzsche and Fascism
Week 14	Nov. 19-20	Fascism and Existentialism
		Thanksgiving Holidays – Nov. 21-23
Week 15	Nov. 26-30	Postmodernism and the Future Prospect
Week 16	Dec. 6-7	Final Thoughts
		Final Exams – Dec. 8-13