

Department of Political Science
Vassar College
Spring 1993

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Political Science 170

Introduction to Political Theory

203 Rockefeller Hall

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Office hours: Tuesdays 2:15 - 4:15 pm and by appointment

This course will introduce students to political theory as a form of inquiry. The course will survey a selection of "classic" treatises drawn from the history of Western political thought, and it will seek to familiarize students with some of the more important concepts, problems, and events associated with those works.

Students will be expected to evaluate critically the readings and problems discussed in the course, both in class discussion and in their written work. As in any truly political enterprise, students will also be expected to attend regularly, argue persuasively, listen respectfully to their peers, and make up their own minds.

Reading assignments are to be completed prior to each session. When possible, texts are to be brought to class so that they may be referred to in lecture and discussion. Sessions will combine lecture and discussion. Students will be expected to speak up and will be graded on participation. There will be two short papers and two exams; late papers will be graded down one step per day late. Papers are to be typewritten, double-spaced, and annotated in accordance with accepted norms of scholarship.

Most of the assigned readings will be drawn from the following texts, which may be purchased at the College Store.

Required reading:

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett, 1975)

Plato, *The Republic* (Penguin Classics, 1955)

Augustine, *The City of God* (Penguin Classics, 1984)

Thomas More, *Utopia* (Penguin Classics, 1965)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Penguin Classics, 1961)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett, 1980)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett, 1987)

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The German Ideology* (International Publishers, 1970)

_____, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (International Publishers, 1948)

Hannah Arendt, *Between Past and Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought* (Penguin, 1977)

Recommended reading:

Carl Stephenson, *Mediaeval Feudalism* (Cornell, 1956)

A few additional reading assignments, as noted on the schedule following, are on reserve at the Library.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

* Indicates readings on reserve at the Library.

WEEKS 1-4: POLITICS AND PHILOSOPHY IN THE ATHENIAN POLIS

- Thurs., 21 Jan. Introduction. No reading assigned.
- Tues., 26 Jan. Plato, *Apology*, in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 21-42.
- Thurs., 28 Jan. Plato, *Crito*, in *Trial and Death*, pp. 43-54; and *Republic*, Part 1, pp. 61-114.
- Tues., 2 Feb. Plato, *Republic*, Parts 2-5, pp. 115-224.
- Thurs., 4 Feb. Plato, *Republic*, Parts 6-7, pp. 225-325.
--FIRST PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED--
- Tues., 9 Feb. Plato, *Republic*, Parts 8 and 10, pp. 326-355 and 421-439.
--FIRST PAPER DUE AT 10 AM, MONDAY, 15 FEB.--

WEEKS 4-7: THE POLITICS OF CHRISTANITAS/CHRISTENDOM

- Thurs., 11 Feb. *Bible*, selections listed at the end of this schedule.
Note: copies of the Authorized (King James) Version will be supplied gratis, courtesy of Guideons International.
- Tues., 16 Feb. Augustine, *The City of God*, selections:
Book I, entire, pp. 5-47;
Book II, ch. 14, pp. 63-65, and chs. 19-22, pp. 70-77;
Book IV, chs. 3-5, pp. 137-141;
Book V, ch. 24, pp. 219-220; and
Book VIII, chs. 1-12, pp. 298-316.
- Thurs., 18 Feb. Augustine, *The City of God*, selections:
Book XIV, ch. 28, pp. 593-594;
Book XV, chs. 1-5, pp. 595-601;
Book XIX, chs. 4-21, pp. 852-883, and chs. 24-28, pp. 890-894; and
Book XXII, ch. 22, pp. 1065-68.
- Tues., 23 Feb. Recommended: Carl Stephenson, *Mediaeval Feudalism*, pp. 1-107.
- Thurs., 25 Feb. Thomas More, *Utopia*, Translator's Introduction, Introductory Letters, and Book One, pp. 7-68.
- Tues., 2 March More, *Utopia*, Book Two, pp. 69-134.
- Thurs., 4 March Mid-Term Examination in Class.

SPRING BREAK

WEEKS 8-10: EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

- Tues., 23 March Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Introductory and chs. I-XI, pp. 9-76.
- Thurs., 25 March Machiavelli, *Prince*, chs. XII-XXVI, pp. 77-138.
- Tues., 30 March John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. I-IX, pp. 5-68.
- Thurs., 1 April Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs. X-XIX, pp. 68-124.
- Tues., 6 April Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts*, in *Basic Political Writings*, pp. 1-21.
--SECOND PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED--
- Thurs., 8 April Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, in *Political Writings*, pp. 25-109.
--SECOND PAPER DUE 10 AM, MONDAY 12 APRIL--

WEEKS 11-14: LATE MODERN GERMANIC/EMIGRE POLITICAL THOUGHT

- Tues., 13 April Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The German Ideology*, pp. 37-120.
Recommended: *Karl Marx, "On the Jewish Question," in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 24-51.
- Thurs., 15 April Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*, pp. 1-48.
- Tues., 20 April *Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in *From Max Weber*, pp. 77-128.
- Thurs., 22 April *Joseph A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, Part IV, chs. XX-XXIII, pp. 235-302.
- Tues., 27 April Hannah Arendt, *Between Past and Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought*, Preface and ch. 1, pp. 3-40, and ch. 4, pp. 143-171.
- Thurs., 29 April Arendt, *Between Past and Future*, ch. 7, pp. 227-264.
- Tues., 4 May Conclusion. No reading assigned.
--TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED--

Reading Assignment from *The Holy Bible*, Authorized (King James) Version, courtesy of Guideons International

Old Testament:

Genesis 1-3, pp. 1-4
11:1-9, p. 11
17:1-10, p. 16
Exodus 3-4, pp. 63-66
6:1-13, p. 67
14:26 - 15:19, pp. 78-79
20, p. 85
34:9-17, pp. 103-104
Leviticus: just note how detailed the laws are
Deuteronomy 4-6, pp. 210-214
I Samuel 2:1-10, p. 315
8, p. 321-322
I King 9:1-9, pp. 400-401
Isaiah 6, pp. 730-731
14, pp. 737-738
40, pp. 759-761
42, pp. 762-763
Jeremiah 1, p. 785
18, pp. 805-806
32:31-42, p. 824
Ezekiel 2, pp. 859-860
37:18-28, pp. 903-904
Micah 6:6-8, p. 964

New Testament:

Matthew 3:13 - 7:29, pp. 993-998
10:5-42, pp. 1001-1002
12:49-50, p. 1005
15-16, pp. 1009-1011
19:24-30, pp. 1014-1015
Mark 12-14:7, pp. 1046-1050
Luke 9-10:37, pp. 1070-1074
John 18:33 - 19:16, pp. 1123-1124
Acts 13-14:1, pp. 1145-1147
17:12-34, p. 1152
Romans 1-16, pp. 1168-1184
I Corinthians 13, p. 1195