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

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


--FIRST PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED--


--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.


Thurs., 4 March  Mid-Term Examination in Class.
***SPRING BREAK***

WEEKS 8-10: EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL THOUGHT


THURSDAY, 8 APRIL

SECOND PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED

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.


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
Acts 13-14:1, pp. 1145-1147
   17:12-34, p. 1152
Romans 1-16, pp. 1168-1184
I Corinthians 13, p. 1195