

**POL 2000Y: COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN THE
HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT
2017-2018
Wednesday 2-4: SS 3130**

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We will spend two to three weeks apiece on eleven major political philosophers. The course presupposes some familiarity with these theorists. By the time of the first class on a given theorist you will be expected to have read all of his work that is under consideration in the course. This will enable us to consider the relationship between earlier and later parts of a work, or in some cases relationships among different works, in addressing questions of interpretation.

Requirements:

1. Eleven short papers (**maximum one page – single spaced, 11 pt. type, one inch margins**), one on each author.

We will provide two sets of questions to guide each week's discussion, and each short paper should respond to one of the sets of questions for the class in which the paper is submitted. Your papers should not attempt to develop an argument in detail. Rather you should provide a summary statement of claims that you are prepared to support with arguments and **explicit references to the text** in the course of class discussion.

The papers must be posted on Blackboard by **5:00pm on the Tuesday before class**. They will be graded on a pass/fail basis. **Late papers (i.e., papers submitted after 5:00 pm) will not be accepted.** If you fail to turn in at least one paper on each theorist or fail to turn in the eleven on time, you will be required to write a five page makeup paper for each one you have missed. These makeup papers will also be graded on a pass/fail basis.

2. Active and informed participation in class discussion (including familiarity with your colleagues' short papers): 20% of the final grade. Regardless of whether you have written a paper or not, you should come prepared to discuss the week's questions and you should have read carefully the comments of your fellow students.
3. One 15 page paper per term on a topic of your choice dealing with the theorists from that term. At least one of these papers must compare two theorists.

Each term paper is worth 40% of the final grade. The first paper is due on Jan. 10, in class; the second is due on April 4, the last day of class Please submit your papers electronically to both instructors.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sept. 13: Introduction

Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4

Plato, *Republic*

Bloom, *Interpretive Essay*: 307-310, 337-348, 365-369, 379-389, 401-412.

Leo Strauss, "Persecution and the Art of Writing," *Persecution and the Art of Writing* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1988)

Oct. 11 and 18: Aristotle, *Politics*. Aristotle, *Ethics*, Book X, cc. 6-9. (This *Ethics* reading will be posted on Blackboard)

Oct. 25 and Nov. 1: Machiavelli, *The Prince* and *Discourses*

Quentin Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," *Visions of Politics* Vol. I (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

November 8: Reading Week: No Classes

Nov. 15 and 22: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Entire, but focus on Parts I and II; chapter 46 from Part IV; and "A Review and Conclusion")

Nov. 29 and Dec. 6: Locke, *Second Treatise, Letter Concerning Toleration*, and readings by Macpherson and Dunn (posted on Blackboard).

Jan. 10: Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*

Jan. 17: Rousseau, *Social Contract*

Jan. 24 and 31: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*; "Perpetual Peace"; "Theory and Practice"; and "What is Enlightenment?" .

Feb. 7 and 14: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*

Feb 21: Reading Week: No Classes

Feb 28 and March 7: Marx, selections from *Marx-Engels Reader*, ed., Tucker, 2nd edition:

pp. 3-6, *Preface to the Critique of Political Economy*

pp. 26-46, *On the Jewish Question*

pp. 53-65, *Introduction: Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*

pp. 70-93, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts*

pp. 143-199, *Theses on Feuerbach and The German Ideology, Pt. I*

pp. 469-500, *The Communist Manifesto*

pp. 525-541, *Critique of the Gotha Programme*

pp. 594-617, *18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*

Mar. 14: Mill, *Utilitarianism* Chapter 2 and *On Liberty*

Mar. 21: Mill, *Representative Government* (chapters 1-8, 10, 12, 16, 18) and *The Subjection of Women*

Mar. 28: Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

April 4: Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*

RECOMMENDATIONS ON TEXTS:

- Plato, Republic, G. Grube revised by C.D.C. Reeve, ed. (Hackett) or R.E. Allen (Yale University Press) or A. Bloom, ed. (Basic Books). Whether or not you use Bloom's edition, we will be reading his introductory essay.
- Aristotle, Politics. Lord, ed. (Chicago); Everson, ed. (Cambridge); Barker, ed. (Oxford).
- Machiavelli, The Prince. Mansfield (Chicago); or Lerner (Modern Library).
- Machiavelli, The Discourses. Crick (Penguin); or Lerner (Modern Library).
- Hobbes, Leviathan. Macpherson, ed. (Penguin), Oakeshott, ed. (Collier), Schneider, ed. (Bobbs-Merrill), Tuck, ed. (Cambridge), or Curley, ed. (Hackett)
- Locke, Second Treatise. Laslett, ed. (Cambridge); Macpherson, ed. (Hackett); or Peardon, ed. (Bobbs-Merrill). also good for the Letter Concerning Toleration - Popple translation (1689) – Mark Goldie ed. (Liberty Fund)
- Rousseau, Discourse on Inequality. Masters, ed. (St. Martin's); or Gourevitch, ed. (Cambridge).
- Rousseau, Social Contract. Masters, ed. (St. Martin's); or Gourevitch, ed. (Cambridge).
- Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, Gregor, ed. (Cambridge); or Ellington, ed. (Hackett). You can find the remaining essays in Reiss, ed. *Kant's Political Writings* (Cambridge).
- Hegel, Philosophy of Right. Knox, ed. (Oxford); or Wood, ed. (Cambridge).
- Marx, The Marx-Engels Reader. Tucker, ed. (Norton).
- Mill, Utilitarianism, On Liberty and other Essays. Gray, ed. (Oxford) (or any other edition).
- Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil. Kaufmann, ed. (Vintage); or J. Norman, ed. (Cambridge)
- Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morals. Kaufmann, ed. (Vintage).