

Political Science 210
Introduction to Political Theory
Autumn 2006

Instructor: Christina Xydias
 Email: xydias.1@osu.edu
 Ph.: 292-9648 (but email is always better)

M/W, 9:30-11:18pm, MQ0159
 Off. hrs: M/T/R 4-5pm (or by apptmt)
 2036 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall

Why study political theory? What does theory have to do with either the study or practice of politics? In answer to these questions, Political Science 210 offers an introduction to texts in political theory, examining material from classical to contemporary times, with an emphasis on developing critical reading skills.

Course Requirements

This course has four requirements:

- 1) **Participation:** Participation and attendance count for 10% of your grade.
 - You must complete the required readings in a timely fashion and participate actively in class (by asking questions, commenting upon the text, etc). I will also take into account visits to and conversations in office hours, as well as emailed comprehension questions about course readings, but office hours and email communiqués are not substitutes for class attendance.
 - I will take attendance each day. If you are unable to attend class, you should inform me, preferably beforehand, or as soon afterward as possible. I will not share my lecture notes, but you can ask classmates for theirs. Should you miss class for a legitimate reason (your illness, with a doctor's note, or a family emergency), you may make up for your absence by attending my office hours (or arranging another time) and having a short conversation with me about your reading assignment (see #2 below). This short conversation must take place within one week of your absence from class (barring further exceptional circumstances, such as your continued illness, with doctor's note, or family emergency).
- 2) **Assignments:** Daily (per class) assignments comprise 20% of your grade. With the exception of the assignments in and for week 4 (TBA), the task is for you to discuss three concepts (sometimes these are phrased as questions in the assignment), which I will give you, from the reading for that day's class. Your response to each of these questions must be at least *three* sentences, totaling at least nine sentences for the assignment, as a whole. The assignment must be typed, and none will be accepted after the conclusion of class on the day for which it was assigned. No emailed submissions.
- 3 & 4) You will take one midterm and one final exam (30% and 40% of your grade, respectively). Re-scheduling the midterm or the final exam is only permitted in situations of your illness (doctor's note required) or a family emergency.

Grading Scale

93 and above=A	92-90=A-	89-87=B+	86-83=B	82-80=B-	79-77=C+
76-73=C	72-70=C-	69-67=D+	66-60=D	59 or below=E	

Academic Honesty

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

Disability

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

The GEC

PS210 fits the following GEC requirements:

Social Science – Goals/Rationale: Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Course Materials

1) Most of the course readings are available in the following reader, which will be on sale at the bookstores in the university area (SBX, Barnes&Noble/Long's, etc) and available on reserve at the library located in Sullivant (at High and 15th):

Mitchell Cohen and Nicole Fermon, eds. Princeton Readings in Political Thought
Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ 1996

2) PS210 has a Carmen course website, where additional materials not in the reader, as well as information about the course, will be available. Please contact me immediately if you are unable to access and print from the course website so that we can arrange an alternative format for these materials, as you are still responsible for preparing them for class. The website can be accessed from the URL

<http://carmen.osu.edu>

where you should sign in using your usual OSU log-in and password.

3) I am recommending a textbook. The readings in this textbook mirror the lecture material, but you should seriously consider purchasing it if you take sloppy notes, or if you retain information better when you read it. This textbook is available for sale at the usual bookstores, and it is also on reserve at Sullivant. Please ask me if you are interested in getting a version of the syllabus with the page numbers relevant to each class.

John Hoffman and Paul Graham. Introduction to Political Theory. Pearson Longman: Essex, England 2006

Course Syllabus and Schedule

Note: [R] indicates that the material is found in the reader; [W] indicates the course website.

Day 1: Introduction to the course and to reading political theory

Wednesday, September 20: Introduction to the course and the assignments, and a discussion about approaches to reading political theory texts.

Week 1: Politics, Power, and the State

Monday, September 25: -M. Weber (1918) "Politics as a Vocation" [R p.499-511]
-N. Machiavelli (1513) Selections from "The Prince" [R p.167-87]

Wednesday, September 27: -Aristotle (4th c. BCE) "The Politics" [R p.107-23]
-T. Hobbes (1651) selections from "Leviathan" [R p.205-42]

Week 2: Justice

Monday, October 2: -J. Rawls (1971) Selections from A Theory of Justice [R p.669-97]

Wednesday, October 4: -S. M. Okin (1989) Chapter 5 "Justice as Fairness: For Whom?" in Justice, Gender, and the Family [W]
-R. Nozick (1974) Selections from Chapter 7 "Distributive Justice" in Anarchy, State, and Utopia [R p.698-709]

Week 3: Freedom and Equality

Monday, October 9: -J.S. Mill (1859) Selections from "On Liberty" [R p.375-87]
-I. Berlin (1969) Selections from "Two Concepts of Liberty" [W]

Wednesday, October 11: -M. Walzer (1973) “In Defense of Equality” Dissent Magazine [R p.656-68]
-Additional reading TBA – will be posted [W]

Week 4: Case Study Week

Monday, October 16: Case study application (to be discussed further in class)

Wednesday, October 18: Case study, continued

Week 5: Citizenship & Midterm

Monday, October 23: -I. M. Young (2000) Chapter 7 “Self-Determination and Global Democracy” in Inclusion and Democracy [W]

Wednesday, October 25: **IN-CLASS MIDTERM** (see course requirements above for policy on missing/re-scheduling the exam)

Week 6: Ideologies, Movements, Persuasions I: Democracy

Monday, October 30: -A. de Tocqueville (1835) Selections from “Democracy in America” [R p.398-442]
-Selected Federalist Papers: #1, 6, 10, and 51 [R p.335-46]

Wednesday, November 1: -R. Putnam (1995) “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital” Journal of Democracy 6(1) [W]
-news piece TBA [W]

Week 7: Ideologies, Movements, Persuasions II: Communism (Monday) and Liberalism (Wednesday)

Monday, November 6: -K. Marx (1848) “The Communist Manifesto” [R p.648-64]
-V. Lenin (1902) Selections from “What is to be Done?” [R p.530-4]

Wednesday, November 8: -J. Locke (1690) Selections from “Second Treatise of Government” [R p.243-79]
-news piece TBA [W]

Week 8: Ideologies, Movements, Persuasions III: Conservatism & Neoconservatism (Monday) and Feminism (Wednesday)

Monday, November 13: -E. Burke (1790) “Reflections on the Revolution in France” [R p.349-55]
-news piece TBA [W]

Wednesday, November 15: -M. Olympe de Gouges (1791) “Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizens” [R p.356-61]
-Review: “Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen” (see Week 3)
-M. Wollstonecraft (1792) “Vindication of the Rights of Woman” [R p.362-70]
-S. de Beauvoir (1952) Selections from “The Second Sex” [R p.601-14]

Week 9: Representation (Monday) and History & Progress (Wednesday)

Monday November 20: -J. J. Rousseau (1762) “Deputies and Representatives” Ch.15 of Book III of the Social Contract [W]
-E. Burke (1774) “Speech to the Electors of Bristol” [W]

Wednesday, November 22: -G. W. F. Hegel (1821) Selections from “Philosophy of Right” [R p.425-34]
-Review: Marx “Communist Manifesto” (see Week 7)
-Review: Mill “On Liberty” (see Week 3)

Week 10: What is political theory/philosophy? (Monday) and Review for Final (Wednesday)

Monday, November 27: -Leo Strauss (1959) “What is Political Philosophy?” [R p.642-55]
-James Tully (2002) “Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity” Political Theory [W]

Wednesday, November 29: Review session for the final exam.

Wednesday, December 6: FINAL EXAM: 7:30-9:18AM (see course requirements above for policy on missing/re-scheduling the exam)