

Political Science 210 Introduction to Political Theory Summer 2006

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M/W, 12:30-2:18pm, PA 0020

Off. hrs: T&W 2:30-4 (or by apptmt)

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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 counts 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, commenting upon class discussion, etc). For those of you who are less comfortable speaking in the classroom, I will also take into account visits to and conversations in office hours, as well as emailed comprehension questions about course readings (office hours and email communiqués are not substitutes for class attendance, however). 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 a 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:** Completion of the readings will be checked, and class participation encouraged, by a small writing submission due at the end of each class period (you can hold onto it during class for your own reference during discussion). The assignment is for you to discuss three concepts/ideas, which I will give you in advance, from the reading for that day's class. Each item should be accompanied by three sentences that either describe what it is or ask a pointed question about something you did not understand. These small assignments must be typed, and they count for 20% of your grade. We will discuss the details of these assignments further in class.
- 3 & 4) You will take one midterm and one final exam (which count 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, Long's, etc) and available on reserve at the OSU Main Library:

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) Occasionally, I will distribute materials in class.

4) I am recommending a textbook. The readings in this textbook will largely 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 the OSU Main Library. Please ask me if you are interested in getting a version of the syllabus with the exact 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; [H] indicates a handout.

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

Monday, June 19: Introduction to the course and the assignments, and a discussion about approaches to reading political theory texts.

Wednesday, June 21: -M. Weber (1918) "Politics as a Vocation" [R p.499-511]

Week 2: Power and the State

Monday, June 26: -N. Machiavelli (1513) Selections from "The Prince" [R p.167-77]

Wednesday, June 28: -Aristotle (4th c. BCE) "The Politics" [R p.107-23]
-T. Hobbes (1651) selections from "Leviathan" [R p.205-42]

Week 3: Freedom and Equality

Monday, July 3: -J.S. Mill (1859) Selections from "On Liberty" [R p.375-87]

-I. Berlin (1969) Selections from "Two Concepts of Liberty" [W]

-Print news piece on human rights [H]

Wednesday, July 5: -(1789) "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" [R p.437]

-M. Walzer (1973) "In Defense of Equality" Dissent Magazine [R p.656-68]

Week 4: JusticeMonday, July 10:

- J. Rawls (1971) Selections from A Theory of Justice [R p.669-97]
- R. Nozick (1974) Selections from Chapter 7 “Distributive Justice” in Anarchy, State, and Utopia [R p.698-709]

Wednesday, July 12:

- S. M. Okin (1989) Chapter 5 “Justice as Fairness: For Whom?” in Justice, Gender, and the Family [W]
- Print news piece on Shar’ia, TBA [H]

Week 5: CitizenshipMonday, July 17:

- I. M. Young (2000) Chapter 7 “Self-Determination and Global Democracy” in Inclusion and Democracy [W]
- Print news piece on immigration, TBA [H]

Wednesday, July 19:

IN-CLASS MIDTERM (see course requirements above for policy on missing/re-scheduling the exam!)

Week 6: DemocracyMonday, July 24:

- 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, July 26:

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

Week 7: “-isms”**7A: Communism, Fascism, Totalitarianism**Monday, July 31:

- K. Marx (1848) “The Communist Manifesto” [R p.648-64]
- V. Lenin (1902) Selections from “What is to be Done?” [R p.530-4]
- H. Arendt (1951) Selections from “The Origins of Totalitarianism” [R p.575-90]

7B: Liberalism, Conservatism, Neo-ConservatismWednesday, August 2:

- J. Locke (1690) Selections from “Second Treatise of Government” [R p.243-79]
- E. Burke (1790) “Reflections on the Revolution in France” [R p.349-55]
- Print news piece on neo-conservatism, TBA [H]

Week 8A: FeminismMonday, August 7:

- M. Olympe de Gouges (1791) “Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizens” [R p.356-61]
- Please 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 8B: RepresentationWednesday, August 9:

- H. Pitkin (1967) Selections from The Concept of Representation [W]
- 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]

Week 9A: History and ProgressMonday, August 14:

- G. W. F. Hegel (1821) Selections from “Philosophy of Right” [R p.425-34]
- Additional reading TBA [W or H]
- Please review:* Marx “Communist Manifesto” (see Week 7)
- Please review:* Mill “On Liberty” (see Week 3)

Week 9B: What is political theory/philosophy?Wednesday, August 16:

- Leo Strauss (1959) “What is Political Philosophy?” [R p.642-55]
- James Tully (2002) “Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity” Political Theory [W]
- Print news piece [H]

Week 10: Review session and final examMonday August 21:

Review session for final exam.

Wednesday, August 23:

FINAL EXAM: PA0020, 11:30am-1:18pm (see course requirements above for policy on missing/re-scheduling the exam!)