

Political Science 210
Introduction to Political Theory
Summer 2005
MW 12:30-2:18
Pomerene Hall (PO) 208

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This course offers an introduction to the field of normative political theory through classic and contemporary readings. The readings are organized thematically. Each class we will discuss one theme and different arguments revolving around this theme. Some of the questions we will address throughout the quarter are: What is the human nature? What makes social institutions legitimate? Why should citizens obey the state? Is democracy a desirable form of government? What does democratic government mean for different philosophers? What is liberty? What are the limits of liberty? What are different conceptions of equality? How is equality related to freedom? How much material inequality can a society allow among its members? What is oppression? What are different forms of oppression? What is the normative relevance of gender for political theory? Does justice transcend state boundaries?

No prior knowledge in political theory is required for the course. However, students are expected to make the assigned readings in a timely fashion, and come to class ready to discuss the issues. The aim of the class is to make the students familiar with the general topics and positions in the field of political theory.

Course Requirements:

- 1) There will be *three take-home exams*, which are in essay format. Essay topics will be assigned in class one week before each due date. The first exam will be due on July 18, the second will be due on August 8, and the final exam will be due on August 24. Each essay should be 4-6 pages long. Each of the exams will count for 25% of your final grade for a total of 75%. For each day that your exam is turned in late you will lose one third of a letter grade. For example, a paper that should get a B- will get a C+, if turned in one day late, a C, if turned in two days late, etc. You need to turn in a hard copy of your exam. Electronic submissions are not accepted.

- 2) To get most out of this class students should read the assignments before the class sessions. To help the students to do that, there will be given seven *unannounced quizzes* throughout the quarter. The *best five* quizzes will count for 10% of your grade (2% each). The quizzes will be given in the beginning of the class session. So, if you are late or cannot attend the class, you will not get any credit for the quiz. There are absolutely NO make-ups for the quizzes.
- 3) This class is based on discussion, so your contribution to the class discussions is very important and highly encouraged. The quality of your *class participation* will count for 7.5 % of your grade. Participation does not only mean attending the class. It requires you to be active in the class and contribute meaningfully to the class discussion.
- 4) Students are expected to submit three one-page long ‘theory and practice connection’ (TPC) assignments. For these assignments you need to submit a current news article, and explain its connection to one of the political theorist’s arguments we read for the class. The submitted assignments should clearly demonstrate the article’s relevance for political theory, hence establish a connection between political theory and political practice. Each submission will be graded based on the insights found in your explanation and in the news article. The three submissions count for 7.5 % of your final grade. The first TPC is due on July 13, the second TPC is due on August 3, and the third TPC is due on August 22nd.

Grading:

3 TPCs :	7.5 % (2.5% each)
5 quizzes:	10 % (2% each)
3 take-home midterms:	75 % (25% each)
Class participation:	7.5 %

Course Materials:

The following texts are required reading:

Michael Rosen and Jonathan Wolff, eds. Political Thought. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999 (Available for purchase at SBX).

A course package containing all of the assigned readings, which are not in the book (Available for purchase at SBX).

OPTIONAL: Jonathan Wolff, An Introduction to Political Philosophy. Oxford University Press, 1996.

The Rosen & Wolff book is a reader, so we will read passages from original texts written by political philosophers. For those students, who want to consult the textbook treatment of the topics, I can recommend Wolff's "An Introduction to Political Philosophy".

Copies of the required and optional readings are available in the closed reserve in the Main Library.

Academic Misconduct:

All the work you do in the course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's ideas or words without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to the university policy and reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. For more on university policy, see <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oaa/procedures>.

Students with disabilities should make their needs known to me and seek available assistance during the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see me or contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall 292-2880.

Schedule of the Class Meetings and Course Syllabus

I. Introduction

Monday, June 20 (Week 1)

Introduction

Wednesday, June 22

Human Nature and Politics. *Political Thought* #1-10 (pp. 10-33)

II. State

Monday, June 27 (Week 2)

The State, the Social Contract and Political Obligation. *Political Thought* #18-23, #30 (pp.54-65, 78-81)

Wednesday, June 29

Against the Social Contract and Civil Disobedience. *Political Thought* #24-29, #31-33 (pp.66-78, 81-88); Cases: Guardian article: “The right not to fight” (coursepack); Daniel Ellsberg, “Preface from Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers” (coursepack)

Monday, July 4 (Week 3)

NO CLASS. INDEPENDENCE DAY, UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED.

III. Democracy

Wednesday, July 6

Theories and Critics of Democracy. *Political Thought* #34-48 (pp.91-118) (Skip #39, #42 and #43)

Monday, July 11 (Week 4)

Democracy and Representation. Federalist #10 (coursepack); Jean Jacques Rousseau “On Government in General” and “Deputies or Representatives” (coursepack); Edmund Burke “Speech at Bristol” (coursepack); Joseph Schumpeter “A Mental Experiment” and “Competition for Political Leadership” (coursepack); David Held “A Technocratic Vision” (coursepack)

FIRST EXAM QUESTION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS, DUE BACK ON MONDAY, JULY 18, 12:30 PM

IV. Liberty

Wednesday, July 13

Liberty. *Political Thought*. #49-52, #61, #65, #86 (pp.122-132, 155-156, 161-171, 222-223; John Dewey “Liberty and Social Control” (coursepack)

FIRST TPC IS DUE, IN CLASS

Monday, July 18 (Week 5)

Liberty, Morality and Toleration. *Political Thought* #53-56, #57-60 (pp.133-141; 142-154)

FIRST EXAM IS DUE, IN CLASS

V. Distributive Justice and Equality

Wednesday, July 20

Private Property and Markets. *Political Thought* #73-84 (pp.190-218). (Skip #75 and #79)

Monday, July 25 (Week 6)

Distributive Justice and Liberal Equality. *Political Thought* #95, #97 (pp. 241-245, 248-254); John Rawls “Justice as Fairness” (coursepack)

Wednesday, July 27

Libertarian Equality. *Political Thought* #87, #96 (p.224, pp.245-248);
Milton and Rose Friedman, “Created Equal” (coursepack);
Communitarian Equality. Michael Walzer “In Defense of Equality” (coursepack)

Monday, August 1 (Week 7)

Socialist Equality. *Political Thought* #92-93, #123 (pp.231-238, 354-358)

SECOND EXAM QUESTION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS, DUE BACK ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 12:30 PM

Wednesday, August 3

Socialism. *Political Thought* #118-122, #128, #130, #132 (pp.345-354, 369-371, 376-377, 380-382); Herbert Marcuse “One-Dimensional Man” (coursepack)

Wednesday

SECOND TPC IS DUE, IN CLASS

VI. Justice in Alternative Perspective

Monday, August 8 (Week 8)

Gender and Justice. *Political Thought* #11-17 (pp.34-51) (Skim #11-13); Susan Moller Okin “Introduction: Justice and Gender” (coursepack)

SECOND EXAM IS DUE, IN CLASS

Wednesday, August 10

Politics of Difference. Marilyn Frye “Oppression” (coursepack); Iris Marion Young “Displacing the Distributive Paradigm” (coursepack)

Monday, August 15 (Week 9)

Affirmative Action. *Political Thought* #104 (pp.285-288); Stanley Fish “Affirmative Action is Still Necessary” (coursepack); Richard Kahlenberg “Class, Not Race” (coursepack); CNN Article “Narrow use of affirmative action preserved in college admissions” (coursepack)

Wednesday, August 17

International Justice and War. *Political Thought* #98-101 (pp. 257-266). Michael Walzer, “The Nature of Necessity” and “Supreme Emergency” (coursepack)

THIRD EXAM QUESTION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DUE BACK
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 4:00 PM

Monday, August 22 (Week 10)

Intergenerational and Global Justice. *Political Thought* #106-108 (292-318)

THIRD TPC IS DUE, IN CLASS.

Wednesday, August 24

THIRD EXAM IS DUE, IN INSTRUCTOR’S MAILBOX (DERBY 2140), 4:00 PM