



Political Science 210 Introduction to Political Theory

Fall 2007



Professor Amadae
email: amadae.1@osu.edu
phone: 292-9986

TR3:30-5:18, Smith Lab. 1005
Off. Hrs. Wed. 3:30-4:30, and by appt.
2126 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall

This course is an introduction to political theory and assumes no prior knowledge. We will discuss six topic areas: democracy; justice; collective action; power and freedom; ethnicity, gender and identity; and sovereignty. We will adopt a “smorgasbord” approach, sampling from well-known theorists’ work addressing issues of contemporary concern. For example, we will discuss how the 9/11 attack affects our thinking about national sovereignty. Students will develop analytic ability, reading facility, and communication proficiency. As well, they will have a foundation for taking further courses in the subfield of political theory. Course requirements are reading the assigned texts, participating in class discussions and exercises, preparing for quizzes, and taking one mid-term and one final exam.

Course Requirements*

1. You must complete the readings in a timely fashion and participate actively in class discussions. To encourage you to prepare well for class, we will have a series of short, unannounced quizzes based on course readings. Together, these quizzes count for 30% of your grade.
2. You will write an in-class mid-term exam, and an in-class final exam. Their weights will be 30% and 40%, respectively.

Course Materials**

Course readings for Political Science 210 are available online through Carmen.

* All of the work that you do in this course is expected to be your own. Plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without citing them) and other forms of cheating will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

** Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Introduction and Overview

Thursday, September 20

Introduction

PART I: DEMOCRACY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

Tuesday, September 25

Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*, Chapters 6-9



Thursday, September 27

Jon Elster, "The Market and the Forum"

Tuesday, October 2

Lynne Sanders, "Against Deliberation"

Thursday, October 4

Scott E. Page, "Diversity and Problem Solving," *The Difference*, pp. 131-174.

Tuesday, October 9

Scott E. Page, "Diverse Preferences," "Preference Aggregation," and "Interacting Toolboxes and Preferences," *The Difference*, 239-296.

Thursday, October 11

Garret Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" and "Framework for Understanding International Collective Action for Climate Change"

PART II: JUSTICE

Tuesday, October 16

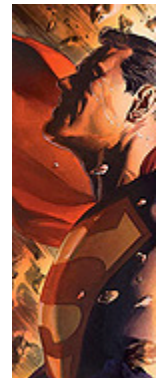
Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, pp. 26-35, 149-82

Thursday, October 18

John Rawls. *A Theory of Justice (Revised Edition)*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1999, selections.

Tuesday, October 23

Midterm review



MIDTERM EXAM, Parts I & II

Thursday, October 25



PART III: POWER AND FREEDOM

Tuesday, October 30

Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*, 2nd ed., New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005. Chapter 1.

Thursday, November 1

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*. Trans. By Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1977. Chapter 3

Tuesday, November 6

Philip Pettit, "Freedom as Anti-Power." *Ethics*, 106(3), April 1996, 576-604.

PART IV: ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND IDENTITY

Thursday, November 8

Molefi Asante, "Racism, Conscience, and Afrocentricity," *Lure and Loathing: Essays on Race, Identity, and the Ambivalence of Assimilation*. Ed. Gerald Early. New York: Penguin Press, 1993.



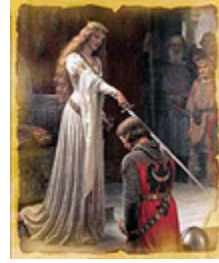
Tuesday, November 13

Robert Williams-Gooding. "Race, Multiculturalism, and Democracy." In *Look, A Negro: Philosophical Essays on Race, Culture, and Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Thursday, November 15

To Be Announced

PART V: SOVEREINTY



Tuesday, November 20

Jürgen Habermas. "Fundamentalism and Terror: A Dialogue with Jürgen Habermas." In *Philosophy in a Time of Terror: Dialogues with Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida*. Giovanna Borradori. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003, 25-41.

Tuesday, November 27

Jacques Derrida. "Autoimmunity: Real and Symbolic Suicides." In *Philosophy in a Time of Terror: Dialogues with Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida*. Giovanna Borradori. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Tuesday, November 29

Final Review



FINAL: TIME AND LOCATION ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR