

**Political Science 4096:  
Twentieth Century Political Thought  
Louisiana State University, Fall 2011**

**Course Description:**

This course offers a survey of some important contributions to contemporary political thought. The premise of this course is that *political theory or philosophy is possible in the twentieth (and twenty-first) century*, and that this activity can help us to understand the modern political world. As we read some representative thinkers and engage, what is at times, a dialogue among them, we will have the opportunity to ask what this activity is, what its principal questions are, and what it has to say about of "the political."

**Instructor:**

Trevor Shelley

**Office Hours:**

M & W 2:30-3:30

**Class Time, and Location:**

MWTF 1:40-2:30  
Ludcand 287C

**Book Review (20%)** You will be asked to choose a book that is *not* on the reading list and write a 4-5 page critical review of the work. This entails briefly summarizing the argument, but predominantly consists in critically assessing the text, that is, adding to the critical conversation about the significance and adequacy of the matter and manner of treatment, etc. You may choose to write on any works by our authors for this semester (again: so long as it is *not* one of the already assigned texts), or a work by other 20<sup>th</sup> century political theorists/philosophers, subject to instructor's approval.  
*Due Monday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> in-class*

**Quizzes (20%)** There will be a quiz every week, but some weeks with more than one and others without a quiz. These will be basic multiple choice or fill in the blank questions based on the day's/week's readings and class discussions. Quizzes will be administered in the first 5 minutes of class. There is no opportunity to write missed quizzes.

**Reflections (20%)** 10 Fridays out of the semester you will be asked to submit a typed reflection of the week's readings (500-750 words in length). These will be graded on a two-point scale with full marks given for demonstrating that you have engaged the text and the conversation of the week by asking questions, raising problems, addressing relevant issues, etc.

**Paper Proposal (50%).** You will be asked to write a final paper that engages in some way the texts and  
required to ensure students are on track engaging a suitable and manageable subject matter and thesis.  
This will be an opportunity to get feedback and engage issues prior to writing the final draft.  
*Indefinite due date (at least two weeks before final paper is due)*

**Final Paper (50%).** The final paper (12-15 pages) will consist of engaging one or  
more themes and thinkers from our course, drawing out important arguments,  
similarities/disagreements, consequences, and/or critiques of the works read and discussed. Students  
will be asked to consult some secondary sources (e.g., journal articles, etc.), but the main emphasis will

*Due Thurs. Dec. 9, in exam week prior to 4pm (to my office or Strubbs mail box)*

### Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of academic integrity and are violations of the University  
code. Furthermore, the Code specifies that a student may be expelled from the university for  
academic misconduct. For the purposes of this class, plagiarism will be defined as *submitting a piece*

### Required Books:

Max Weber *The Vocation Lectures: "Science as a Vocation" and "Politics as a Vocation"*

Carl Schmitt *The Concept of the Political: With Notes by Leo Strauss* (Chicago: University of Chicago  
Press, 2007). ISBN: 0226738022

Leo Strauss *On Tyranny: Including the Strauss-Kojève Correspondence* (University of Chicago  
Press, 2000). ISBN: 0226776875

Eric Voegelin *Order and the Germans* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003). ISBN:  
0826214665

Herbert A. Marcuse *The Human Condition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999). ISBN:  
0226025985

Joseph Ratzinger [now Pope Benedict XVI] and Jürgen Habermas *The Dialectics of Secularization:  
On Reason and Religion* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2006). ISBN: 1586171666

Diogenes Laertius *A World Beyond Politics? A Defense of the Nation State* (Princeton: Princeton  
University Press, 2006). ISBN: 0691125120

Course Reading and Lecture Schedule

Aug. 22 - Introduction

1. Science and Politics and the Problem of Rationalization

Aug. 24. - Weber, pp. 1-31

Aug. 26 - No class

Aug. 29 - Weber, pp., 1-31 cont.

Aug. 31 - Weber, pp. 32-94, ...

Sept. 2 - Weber, cont. Reflection due

Sept. 5 - Labor Day, No class

2. The Intensity of Politics and the Question of Depoliticization

Sept. 7 - Schmitt, pp. 19-53

Sept. 9 - Schmitt, pp. 53-79 Reflection due

Sept. 12 - Schmitt/Strauss, pp. 80-122

Sept. 14 - Schmitt/Strauss, cont.

3. The Tyranny of Science and the Science of Wisdom

Sept. 16 - Strauss, pp. 3-48, Reflection due

Sept. 19 - Strauss, pp. 48-105

Sept. 21 - Strauss/Kojève, pp. 135-176

Sept. 23 - Strauss/Kojève, pp. 177-212 Reflection due

Sept. 26 - Strauss/Kojève, pp. 217-314

Sept. 28 - Strauss/Kojève, cont.

4. The Science of Experience and the Politics of Stupidity

Sept. 30 - Voegelin, pp. 51-109 Reflection due

Oct. 3 - Voegelin, pp. 110-154

Oct. 5 - Voegelin, pp. 155-212

Oct. 7 - Voegelin, pp. 213-256 Reflection due

Oct. 10 - Voegelin, pp. 257-295

(provided on Moodle)

Oct. 13 - Fall holiday begins, classes resume Oct. 17

5. The Politics of Performance and the Problem of Worldlessness

Oct. 17 – Arendt, pp. 1-78 *NB: Book Review due in-class*

Oct. 19 – Arendt, pp. 79-135

Oct. 21 – Arendt, pp. 136-174. *Reflection due*

Oct. 24 – Arendt, pp. 175-247

Oct. 26 – Arendt, pp. 248-325

Oct. 28 – Arendt, “Philosophy and Politics”  
(provided on Moodle), *Reflection due*

6. The Question of Pre-Political Moral Foundations of Order

Oct. 31 – Habermas/Benedict, “Foreword” pp. 21-52

Nov. 2 – Habermas/Benedict, pp. 55-80

Nov. 4 – Habermas/Benedict, Habermas, “Public Space and Politics of the Public Sphere”  
(provided on Moodle)

Nov. 9 – Strauss, “Jerusalem and Athens: Some Preliminary Reflections”  
(provided on Moodle)

Nov. 11 – Voegelin, “The Gospel and Culture”  
(provided on Moodle) *Reflection due*

Nov. 18 – *No Class*

Nov. 21 – Manent, pp. 70-109

Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving holiday; classes resume Nov. 28

Nov. 25 – Manent, pp. 110-140

Dec. 2 – Manent, pp. 171-206

Additional Notes:

Please make sure to bring the week's readings to class, as we will be making reference to them regularly.  
Use of cell phones (including text messaging, etc.) is prohibited. Laptops are for scholarly purposes only and not for personal entertainment or diversion.