Louisiana State University Department of Political Science

Name of text used in course<u>Great Political Thinkers: Plato to the Pres</u>ett Edition), William and Alan Ebenstein, Harcourt College Publishers.

Course Overview

This course is inteded as a brief and broad roduction to Western political thought as seen through an examination of some of the most important texts and thinkers of the tradition. Throughout the course we will explore various conceptions of human rights and liberty, justice, freedom, adhcitizenship. We willanalyze the origins of human rights and democratic theory as it developed out of Ancient Greece, through Medieval Europe, and intended when modernity. Through discussion and analysis you will learn to think critically and tight about difficult butimportant issues Above all, you will be encouraged to a modernity. Through discussion and analysis you will be encouraged to a modernity own views and to develop arguments be careful study of the material.

Although lectures are a part of this course, our main focus will be research, witing, and discussion For most session will prepare remarks an introduction to the material for that day. Students will sobe selected the lp leads as discussions by preparing questions in advance. These questions will provide fodder fittical analysis of the reading by job will be to guide us through the material of supplement discussions will be to guide us through the material of supplement discussions will be to guide us through the material of supplement discussions will be seen to supplement discussions will be supplement discussions will be supplement discussions will be seen to supplement discussions will be suppleme

I cannot stress this enoughattendance is an academic requirement of this course. You must not only attend eachlass, but you must know all the readings and come prepared to contribute substantively to our discussions.

Description of Major Assignments

1. Each student will submit a (1) paged research proposal with an attached bibliography. The proposal will be graded in accordance with the checklist below. The graded in accordance with the checklist below.

2. There willbe a mid

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades are awarded only under the conditions stated above under Course Requirements and Assignments. For additional university regulations involving incomplete grades, please see page 47 of the University Undergraduate Bulletin.

Reading Assignments (selections from Ebenstein text)

Week of January 14 D16: Introduction to course (Wed)

Section 1: Ancient Greece

(a) Socrates The Apology(Fri) ĐPDF available via Moodte

Monday, Janadi (m. MtBt 50 0LK.68 cm m/TT2 1 ay4 270.4332 487.68 cm BT 50 0 03(e)9437.Tj .d3.4

(a) Chapter14, Machiavelli documentar(Fri)

Week of February 23 D27: Chapter 15, Hobbest Oviathan

(a) Research Proposal Due Friday, Feb. th (including tentative bibliography)

Week of March 2 D6: Midterm Exam Week

- (a) Review/Concentrated Study Per(button-Wed)
- (b) Exam on Friday (3/6)

Week of March 9 D13: Chapter 21, Rousseaul Ontract Social Contract Mon-Fri)

(a) Excerpt fromRousseau@sscourse on the Origin of Inequalityvailable via Moodle)

Section 3: Late Modernity (19th and 20th Centuries)

Week of March 16 Đ20: Chapter 28HegelÕPhilosophy of HistoryMon)

(a) Chapter 29MarxÕs The Communist Manifes (Wed-Fri)

Week of March 23 D27: Chapter 30, Nietzsche Dsus Spoke Zarathust (Mon)

- (a) Chapter 30, Nietzsche De Antichrist (Wed)
- (b) Chapter 30, Nietzsche Gsnealogy of Moral (Fri)

Week of March 30 ĐApril 3: Chapter 33, Gandhi Oelected Writing Mon-Fri)

(a) Research Paper Due Friday, April 3

Week of April 6 Ð10: SPRING BREAK

Week of April 13 £17: Albert Camus, AbsurdityPolitics, and Revolt (MorFri)

(a) Reading: ÒCamus and Nietzsche on Politics in an Age of AbsurdityÓ (available via Moodle)

Week of April 20 D24: Chapter 36, Libertarianism

- (a) Chapter 36, Hayek Dse Road to Serfdo (Mon)
- (b) Chapter 36, Friedman **©** spitalism and Freedor (Wed)
- (c) Chapter 37, Berlin Oswo Concepts of Libert Fri)

Week of April 27 DMay 1: CONCENTRATED STUDY PERIOD/FINAL EXAM

Steps in Writing Your Research Paper

- 1. Use the writing competencies listed below as a checknlist areas to be covered.
- 2. Ask yourself whether each competency has been sufficiently satisfied.
- 3. If you have questions or are unsure, you may come see me or you may go to the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Lab, which is located on the float of Bobet Hall46.4 cm BT 50 0 0 50 0

Written Form

Each item is rated on a scale of 0 points.

- 1. Uses appropriate grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- 2. Uses appropriate syntax.
- 3. Uses appropriate notation.
- 4. Usesappropriate citation.
- 5. Uses appropriate paragraphing.