

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2060

**Law, Order, and the Just Society**

Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:20 PM

Instructor: William Schulz  
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Office:  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**Course Overview**

This course is meant to be a general undergraduate survey of Western political philosophy as it has evolved over time from the days of ancient Greece and Rome to our current age, the post-modern era. We will begin by discussing the nature of political philosophy and its goals, and we will frequently refer back to this discussion as we cover the changing nature of political thought throughout the course of the semester. Ultimately, political philosophy is rooted in pure philosophy and in certain "big" questions such as "What is justice?"

As this course is a general education elective, students will be expected to directly confront the larger questions raised by political philosophy and interpret them in light of current political concerns. In order to more fully familiarize students with both the broader philosophical approach to thinking about politics and the more focused social sciences approach, texts will include examples of pure philosophy as well as works on specific methodological approaches. It is hoped that by approaching the study of political philosophy as a holistic enterprise concerned with all aspects of the existence of the human person, by the end of the course, students will emerge better equipped to critically examine issues raised by the political leaders and thinkers of our day.

**Course Requirements**

Participation: While meditation on the deeper questions of being in the privacy and silence of

use or publication of lecture material without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. Participation will be worth 10% of the overall grade.

Tests: In order to maximize the opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge of course material, three exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will be worth 20% of the overall grade. Students are permitted to miss one exam during the semester, however this will result in doubli

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto and Other Writings*

February 18 – Ethics and Politics in the High Middle Ages (continued)

Required Reading: *The Political Ideas of Thomas Aquinas*, Introduction - 77

February 23 - The Medieval Synthesis: Church and State

Required Reading: *The Political Ideas of Thomas Aquinas*, 147-158, 171-195

February 25 - The Medieval Synthesis (continued); **Paper topic due**

Required Reading: *The Political Ideas of Thomas Aquinas*, 147-158, 171-195

March 1 – **Exam 1**

### **Renaissance, Reformation, and Modern Thought**

March 3 - The Practical Turn and the Secular State

Required Reading: Niccolo Machiavelli's *The Prince*

March 8 - Machiavelli's Ideal

Required Reading: Niccolo Machiavelli's *The Prince*

March 10 - The Nature of Enlightenment and the Spirit of the Age

Required Reading: Immanuel Kant's *What is Enlightenment?* and selections from *Groundwork for the Metaphysic of Morals*; selections from Rene Descartes' *Meditation on First Philosophy* and *Discourse on Method* [via Moodle]

March 15 – The Social Contract: Contract, Covenant, or Partnership?

Required Reading: Selections from John Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*; selections from Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan*; The Declaration of Independence [Moodle]

March 17 - Early Modern Constitutional Theory

Require Reading: Selections from John Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*; The Constitution of the United States of America [via Moodle]

March 20-27 Spring Break

March 29 - Socialism: The French Revolution completed

Required Reading: *The Communist Manifesto and Other Writings*, 3-42, 177-182

March 31 - Socialism: A New Theory of Justice?; **Rough draft of Paper due**

Required Reading: *The Communist Manifesto and Other Writings*, 3-42, 177-182

April 4 – **Final date to drop this course**

April 5 – **Exam 2**

### **Post-Modern Thought**

April 7 – The Constitutions of Post-Modernity: Fascism

Required Reading: Selections from Benito Mussolini's *The Doctrine of Fascism* [Moodle]

April 12 – The Constitutions of Post-Modernity: Neo-Liberalism

Required Reading: Selections from John Rawls' *A Theory of Justice* and Peter Singer's "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" [via Moodle]

April 14 – Anti-Totalitarianism

Required Reading: Friedrich Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*

April 19 - Anti-Totalitarianism (continued)

Required Reading: Friedrich Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*

April 21 – Anti-Totalitarianism (concluded)

Required Reading: Friedrich Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*

April 26 - The Return to the Aristotelian *Weltanschung*; **Paper due**

Required Reading: *Science, Politics and Gnosticism*, Introduction - 37

April 28 - Man, Society, and Justice reconsidered; Course Evaluation

Required Reading: *Science, Politics and Gnosticism*, 38 - conclusion

**Exam 3 (Final Exam)**