

PL SC 202 WESTERN POLITICAL HERITAGE

Lecture: Tue., Thurs. 9:30am **Room:** 250 SWKT

Instructor: Brent Gilchrist

Office: 730 SWKT

Phone: 422-7807 (home 794-2046)

Office Hours: Thurs. 10:50am - 12 noon

e-mail: brent_gilchrist@byu.edu

Introduction:

This course introduces students to modern political thought. Students will study some of the most important written contributions to modernity in the West. Lectures will provide students with some contextual background to the readings, but will largely focus upon guiding students through the textual content of the readings themselves. It is essential to the successful completion of this course that students read the assigned material.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

10% 6 Quizzes: A short quiz follows each of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Kant, Marx and Nietzsche. The lowest score will automatically be dropped, so that the 5 best scores count for 10% of the final grade.

10% Writing Assignment: An explanation of a selected portion of text, in preparation for the essay assignments (3-4 pages, double spaced)

40% 2 Essays: Select 1 thinker considered before the midterm and 1 thinker from after the midterm and, for each, write a short paper (5-6 pages, double spaced) that **explains and analyzes** an important idea or argument of the relevant text. Each essay is worth 20% of the final grade.

20% Midterm Exam: An exam on material covered in the first half of the course follows our consideration of Rousseau.

20% Final Exam: An exam on material covered in the second half of the course.

(Detailed information and instructions for each assignment will be made available in class & on course blackboard)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Teaching Assistants are provided for your success in this course. Beginning Week 3, they will hold weekly lab sessions to lead discussions, review and answer questions, to instruct on successful essay writing for this course, and to help prepare you for exams. Your participation in these labs & your wise use of the Teaching Assistants will help your performance in the course, as well as helping you to get the most you can from the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Modern Political Thought: Readings from Machiavelli to Nietzsche. (Hackett Publishing)
2. Political Writings. Immanuel Kant, (Cambridge Univ. Press)
3. Reflections on Violence. Georges Sorel, (Cambridge Univ. Press)

(a few other short readings may be assigned and made available on course blackboard)

Laptop Use in Class:

Laptop use in class is permitted **FOR NOTE TAKING ONLY**. Using laptops in class for browsing the web, checking email, admiring family photos, playing games, etc., is distracting for other students, rude, and harmful to your health. If you use your laptop in class for any reason other than taking notes you will no longer be permitted to bring your laptop to class.

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:

Sept.2 Course Introduction Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> introductory remarks	Sept.4 Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> : 1-6 pp.9-19
Sept.9 Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> : 7-14 pp.19-36	Sept.11 quiz open until Saturday noon Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> : 15-26 pp.36-57
Sept.16 Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> : Introduction, 1-6 pp.124-145	Sept.18 Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> : 12-15 pp.163-184
Sept.23 quiz open until Thursday 9am Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> : 16-21 pp.184-209	Sept.25 Locke's <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : Preface, Chs.1-3 pp.310-318
Sept.30 Locke's <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : Ch.5 pp.319-327	Oct.2 FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY quiz open until Saturday noon Locke's <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : Chs.7-12 pp.334-357 Chs.18-19 pp.372-386
Oct.7 Rousseau's <i>First Discourse</i> (on blackboard)	Oct.9 Rousseau's <i>Second Discourse</i> : pp.413-448
Oct.14 Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i> : pp.464-490	Oct.16 (Midterm Exam opens, closes Oct.20) Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i> : pp.490-534.
Oct.21 Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"	Oct.23 Kant, "On Theory & Practice"
Oct.28 FIRST ESSAY DUE TODAY Kant, "Contest of Faculties"	Oct.30 quiz open until Saturday noon Kant, "On Beginnings of Human History" Kant, "Idea for a Universal History"
Nov.4 Hegel (no reading) Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> : pp.826-839	Nov.6 Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> : pp.839-846
Nov.11 quiz open until Thursday 9am Marx, "Alienated Labor": pp.790-797	Nov.13 Nietzsche For and Against: pp.895-901 Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals; First Essay</i> : pp.902-924
Nov.18 Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals; First Essay</i> : pp.902-924	Nov.20 quiz open until Saturday noon Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals; Second Essay</i> : pp.924-946
Nov.25 FRIDAY INSTRUCTION: NO CLASS TODAY	Nov.27 THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS TODAY
Dec.2 SECOND ESSAY DUE TODAY Sorel, <i>Reflections on Violence</i> : "Letter to Daniel Halevy" pp.3-36	Dec.4 Sorel, <i>Reflections on Violence</i> : "Introduction" pp.39-46, Ch.2.2 pp.71-79, Ch.3.4 pp.106-108, Ch.4 pp.109-142
Dec.9 Sorel, <i>Reflections on Violence</i> : Ch.5.2 pp.150-156, Ch.6.4 pp.204-214, Ch. 5.3-5.4 pp.156-173	Dec.11 Sorel, <i>Reflections on Violence</i> : Ch.7 pp.215-251 Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (blackboard)
FINAL EXAMS	FINAL EXAMS

PLEASE NOTE:

Preventing Sexual Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the University but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You may contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.