

## PL SC 202 WESTERN POLITICAL HERITAGE

**Instructor:** Brent Gilchrist

**Office:** 730 SWKT

**Office Hours:** Thurs. 10:50am to 12 noon  
(& by individual arrangement)

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**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 and attend lectures.

### ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

**10% 6 Quizzes:** A short quiz follows each of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Kant, Marx and Nietzsche. The lowest score will be dropped for those who complete the online course evaluation at the end of the course, 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 (about 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 (about 6 pages, double spaced) that **explains and analyzes** an important idea or argument of the relevant text. The first essay is worth 15% of the final grade, the second essay is worth 25% 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)**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at lectures is required. Students absent for 3 classes during the semester will have their final grade lowered by one-half letter grade (eg. A to A-). Absence from 4 classes will drop your final grade by one full letter grade (eg. A to B). Students absent from 5 or more classes will receive a failing grade for the course, unless they choose to withdraw before University deadlines. UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THESE PENALTIES.

### 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, instruct on successful essay writing for this course, and help prepare you for exams. Attendance at labs is optional. However 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 materials & studies.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Modern Political Thought: Readings from Machiavelli to Nietzsche. (Hackett Publishing)

2. Reflections on Violence. Georges Sorel, (Cambridge Univ. Press)

(other readings will 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 be asked to stop bringing your laptop to class.

## ORDER OF LECTURES AND READING:

Course Introduction; Introduction to Machiavelli's *The Prince*  
Machiavelli's *The Prince*: Chs.1-6, pp.9-18  
Machiavelli's *The Prince*: Chs.7-14, pp.18-33  
Machiavelli's *The Prince*: Chs.15-26, pp.33-52  
QUIZ

Hobbes's *Leviathan*: Introduction, Chs.1-6, pp.116-136  
Hobbes's *Leviathan*: Chs.12-15, pp.152-171  
Hobbes's *Leviathan*: Chs.16-21, pp.171-193  
QUIZ

Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*: Preface, Chs.1-3, pp.285-292  
Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*: Ch.5, pp.292-299  
Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*: Chs.7-12, pp.306-326; Chs.18-19, pp.340-353  
QUIZ

Rousseau's *First Discourse* (on blackboard)  
Rousseau's *Second Discourse*: Part 1, pp.371-395;  
Rousseau's *Second Discourse*: Part 2, pp.395-410  
Rousseau's *Social Contract*: Books 1 & 2, pp.427-449  
Rousseau's *Social Contract*: Books 3 & 4, pp.449-487

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE OCT.6**

Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" pp.  
Kant, "The Contest of Faculties" (blackboard)  
Kant, "Idea for a Universal History" (blackboard)  
Hegel, *Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Right* (excerpts): pp.714-741  
QUIZ

**MIDTERM EXAM – ON LINE (Blackboard)**

**OCT.15 6pm to OCT.19 12midnight**

writing assignment returned Oct.22

Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*: Parts 1&2, pp.798-809  
Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*: Parts 3&4, pp.809-815  
Marx, "Alienated Labor": pp.766-772  
QUIZ

**FIRST ESSAY DUE NOV.3**

Nietzsche, "For and Against": pp.858-864  
Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, excerpts (on blackboard)  
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, excerpts (on blackboard)  
Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*: Preface, First Essay, pp.865-884  
QUIZ

Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*: "Letter to Daniel Halevy," pp.3-36  
Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*: "Introduction," pp.39-46; Ch.2.2, pp.71-79; Ch.3.4, pp.106-108; Ch.4, pp.109-142

first essay returned Nov.19

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Emma Goldman - video in class (reading assignment on blackboard)  
Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*: Ch.5.2, pp.150-156; Ch.6.4, pp.204-214; Ch. 5.3-5.4, pp.156-173  
Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*: Ch.7, pp.215-251

**SECOND ESSAY DUE DEC.8**

Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (blackboard)

**FINAL EXAM – ON LINE (Blackboard) Friday Dec.11 9am to Friday Dec.18 12 midnight**

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.