

## PL SC 202 WESTERN POLITICAL HERITAGE

**Instructor:** Brent Gilchrist

**Office:** 730 SWKT

**Office Hours:** Thurs. 10:50am - 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 automatically 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 (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. 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. 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 be asked to stop bringing your laptop to class.

## CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:

JAN.6 Course Introduction Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> introductory remarks	JAN.8 Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> : 1-6 pp.9-18
JAN.13 Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> : 7-14 pp.18-33	JAN.15 <b>Machiavelli quiz open until Saturday noon</b> Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> : 15-26 pp.33-52
JAN.20 Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> : Introduction, 1-6 pp.116-136	JAN.22 Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> : 12-15 pp.152-171
JAN.27 Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> : 16-21 pp.171-193	JAN.29 <b>Hobbes quiz open until Saturday Noon</b> Writing Political Philosophy essays
FEB.3 Locke's <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : Preface, Chs.1-3 pp.285-292	FEB.5 Locke's <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : Ch.5 pp.292-299
FEB.10 Locke's <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> : Chs.7-12 pp.306-326; Chs.18-19 pp.340-353	FEB.12 <b>FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY</b> <b>Locke quiz open until Saturday Noon</b> Rousseau's <i>First Discourse</i> (on blackboard)
FEB.17 MONDAY INSTRUCTION	FEB.19 Rousseau's <i>Second Discourse</i> , Part 1: pp.371-395
FEB.24 Rousseau's <i>Second Discourse</i> , Part 2: pp.395-410 Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i> , 1&2: pp.427-449	FEB.28 <b>(Midterm Exam opens, closes Mar.2)</b> Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i> , 3&4: pp.449-487
MAR.3 Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" Kant, "On Theory & Practice"	MAR.5 Kant, "On Theory & Practice" Kant, "Contest of Faculties"
MAR.10 Kant, "On Beginnings of Human History" Kant, "Idea for a Universal History"	MAR.12 <b>FIRST ESSAY DUE TODAY</b> <b>Kant quiz open until Saturday Noon</b> Hegel, <i>Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Right</i> : pp.714-741 Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , 1&2: pp.798-809
MAR.17 Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , 1&2: pp.798-809	MAR.19 <b>Marx quiz open until Sat.noon</b> Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , 3&4: pp.809-815 Marx, "Alienated Labor": pp.766-772
MAR.24 Nietzsche For and Against: pp.858-864 Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals; Preface, First Essay</i> : pp.865-884	MAR.26 <b>Nietzsche quiz open until Saturday Noon</b> Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals; First Essay</i> : pp.869-884
MAR.31 Sorel, <i>Reflections on Violence</i> : "Letter to Daniel Halevy" pp.3-36	APR.2 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
APR.7 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	APR.9 <b>SECOND ESSAY DUE TODAY</b>  REVIEW & TIPS FOR FINAL EXAM
APR.14 Sorel, <i>Reflections on Violence</i> : Ch.7 pp.215-251 Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (blackboard)	
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.