PL SC 309r
EXTREMES OF CURRENT POLITICAL THOUGHT

Instructor: Brent Gilchrist
Office: 730 SWKT  Office Hours: Thurs. 11-12 & by appointment

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ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION:
(55%) Formal Writing
15% 1 Analytical Book Review: Book reviews will be 6-8 pages. Reviews of the highest
calibre are expected. You may use a book that you are using for your research essay
(best if you do).

40% 1 Research Paper: Research papers will be 12-14 pages. These also should be of high
quality, comprised of critical considerations of primary & secondary sources, with clear
arguments and a well-developed central thesis. Before writing the research essay, students
are required to submit a brief abstract, including their thesis statement and an annotated
bibliography, which will count for 5% – due Oct.12. The final paper, worth 35%, must
include a revised annotated bibliography, and is due Dec.7.

(15%) Participation & Informal Writing
5% Reading Journals: May be collected & graded periodically.
10% Participation & Discussion: attendance, participation, preparation

(30%) 30% Final Examination
Any and all late assignments, regardless of arrangements made with the instructor, will
be penalized one-half letter grade during the first week after the due date (eg. B will become
B-). Assignments submitted later than 1 week after the due date will be penalized a full letter
grade (eg. B will become C). University excused absences will be exempt from this penalty.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Jensen, Endgame volume 1: The Problem of Civilization
Kay, Among the Truthers
Drury, Leo Strauss and the American Right
Hedges, Death of the Liberal Class
Craiutu, A Virtue for Courageous Minds: Moderation in French Political Thought, 1748-1830

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. Please be prudent.
CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:
This is a tentative schedule that will be subject to change according to class discussion and interest/needs. Therefore, it is important that students pay attention to our progress and govern their reading accordingly.

* = readings to be supplied electronically

Aug.30: Mullins, “On the Concept of Ideology in Political Science”*
Sanford, “Of Spider-Man, Spider-Man 2, and Living Like a Hero”*

Zizek, “Happiness after September 11”*

Sept.6: Hedges, *Death of the Liberal Class* (selections)

Sept.11: Hedges, *Death of the Liberal Class* (selections)

Sept.13: Hedges, *Death of the Liberal Class* (selections)

Sept.18: Chomsky, “Occupy”*
Levine “A Precarious Left”*

Sept.20: Eagleton, *Why Marx was Right* (chs.1&2)*
Zizek, “How to Begin from the Beginning”*
Badiou, “The Idea of Communism”*

Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative”

Sept.27: Lepore, “Party Like It’s 1773”
Lepore, “The Book of Ages”

Oct.2: Kay, *Among the Truthers* (selections)

Oct.4: Kay, *Among the Truthers* (selections)

Oct.9: Kay, *Among the Truthers* (selections)

Oct.11: Buchanan, “The Passing of a Superpower”*
Buchanan, “The End of White America”*
Buchanan, “The Long Retreat”*

Oct.16: Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (excerpts)
Kuntzel, *Jihad and Jew-Hatred* (excerpts)

Oct.18: Zizek, “Radical Intellectuals”

Oct.23: Strauss, “Notes on Carl Schmitt The Concept of the Political”

Oct.25: Drury, *Leo Strauss and the American Right*

Oct.30: Drury, *Leo Strauss and the American Right*

Nov.1: Rejoinder: Straussian
Nov.6: Chomsky, “Stark, Dreadful, Inescapable”*
The Invisible Committee, “The Coming Insurrection”*
Nov.8: Jensen, *Endgame* vol.1
Nov.13: Jensen, *Endgame* vol.1
Nov.15: Jensen, *Endgame* vol.1
Nov.20: FRIDAY INSTRUCTION – NO CLASS
Nov.22: THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
Nov.27: Jensen, *Endgame* vol.1
Nov.29: Craiutu, *A Vitrue for Courageous Minds*
Dec.4: Craiutu, *A Vitrue for Courageous Minds*
Dec.6: Craiutu, *A Vitrue for Courageous Minds*

**TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM – DUE: DEC.14, 5 PM**

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.