PL SC 202 WESTERN POLITICAL HERITAGE

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Introduction:
“POLITICS & FREEDOM” might serve as a subtitle for this course, as this will appear as a common theme throughout the texts that we will read this semester. The 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 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 only the 5 best scores count.

15% 1 Writing Assignment: an assignment in reading & writing in political philosophy. (4-5 pages, double-spaced).

30% 1 Formal Essay: A polished essay of 8-10 pages, double-spaced, responding to your choice of questions (provided by the instructor) about a philosopher of your choice (from among those included in our readings). Your essays will include explanations and analysis of the text in question, including enough basic summary of textual material to inform readers and to well situate your argument about that text. A good summary earns a B, a good summary with good explanation earns a B+, and a good summary with good explanation and good analysis gets your paper into the A range. More details will be available in class and on blackboard.

5% 1 Topical Report: A short reaction paper on a topic of your choice, connecting themes, principles, ideas, and arguments from the course to current events, films, or books.

20% Midterm Exam: material covered in the first half of the course.

20% Final Exam: 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.

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.
**A note regarding grade disputes: I am quite willing to discuss your grades with you and make any necessary corrections should I agree they are warranted. However, if you have questions/disputes about grades assigned for any particular assignment, please see me to discuss these immediately upon receipt of the grade/return of the assignment. Questions about grading will not be entertained after 1 week has passed beyond the return to students of the relevant assignment. Without exception, no grade change will be considered after 1 week has passed from the first class in which assignments are returned to students.**

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**
1. Modern Political Thought: Readings from Machiavelli to Nietzsche. (Hackett Publishing)  
2. The Abolition of Man, C.S. Lewis  
(a few other short readings may be assigned and made available on course blackboard)

**Planned Lectures & Readings**

Course Introduction; Introductory remarks about Machiavelli’s *The Prince*

Machiavelli, The Prince: Intro, chs.1-6  
Machiavelli, The Prince: Intro, chs.7-14  
Machiavelli, The Prince: Intro, chs.15-26  
*Quiz on Machiavelli follows*

Hobbes’s *Leviathan*: Intro, chs.1-3, 5-6  
Hobbes’s *Leviathan*: chs.11-15  
Hobbes’s *Leviathan*: chs.17-18, 21  
*Quiz on Hobbes follows*

Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government*: Preface, chs.1-3  
Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government*: Ch.5  
Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government*: Chs.7-9, 18-19  
*Quiz on Lock follows*

Rousseau’s *First Discourse* (no reading assignment)  
Rousseau’s *Second Discourse*, Preface, Part 1  
Rousseau’s *Second Discourse*, Part 2  
Rousseau’s *Social Contract*, Bks.1&2  
Rousseau’s *Social Contract*, Bk.3; Bk.4:1, 7-8  
*FIRST PAPER DUE*

Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”  
Kant, “Conjectures on the Beginning of Human History”  
Kant, “Idea for a Universal History”  
*Quiz on Kant follows*

Hegel (no reading assignment)  
Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, parts 1&2  
Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, parts 3&4  
Marx, “Alienated Labor”  
*Quiz on Marx follows*

(Second Essay, time permitting)  
*Quiz on Nietzsche follows*

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus” (blackboard)  
Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*  
Conclusions  
*FORMAL ESSAY DUE*  
*TOPICAL REPORT DUE*  
*FINAL EXAM*
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.