

**Political Science 240-001**  
**Political Theory**  
**Spring 2013**

**Meeting Times:** MWF 3:00pm – 3:50

**Office:** 1606 Patterson Office Tower

**Location:** Whitehall Room 303

**Office Hours:** MWF 1 - 3

**Instructor:** Ralph Schoellhammer

**Email:** [rscho2@uky.edu](mailto:rscho2@uky.edu)

*“The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority, who hear voices in the air, are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler a few years back.”* (John Maynard Keynes, 1936)

### ***Course Objectives***

The Idea of this course is to create an understanding of the role of Political Theory in the modern World. It will try to uncover the underlying assumptions of the different ideological visions of the world contested in modern times. This course will not try to establish which one of the many visions out there is more valid, but to make the inherent logic behind each of these sets of views more clear and understandable. The structure of this course is between the theoretical and the practical, meaning that we will not only deal with the realm of theory, but also take a look at how different political theories translated into practical politics.

Despite its treatment as an unloved member in the different fields of political science, political theory still has the largest impact on our daily lives. Like a scientist who first establishes a theory which then he tries to put into practice, political movements throughout history have attempted to form societies according to their political vision.

How different would China look today if Mao-Tse-Tung would have been an ardent follower of Thomas Jefferson instead of Karl Marx? What would modern Iran be like if the Islamic Revolutionaries would have been majority communists instead of religious ideologues? The ideas and visions to which a society and its leaders subscribe define the structure and institutions of the state. These visions may be moral, political, economic, religious, or social. In these or other realms, we sacrifice for our visions and sometimes, if need be, face ruin rather than betray them. Where visions conflict irreconcilably, whole societies may be torn apart. Conflicts of interest dominate the short run, but conflicts of visions dominate history.

## ***Course Requirements***

This course is not a history class! This means that we are not so much dealing with the “history of thought” but much more with the “consequences of thought”. While history gives us the necessary tools to create an account of past events, political theory is concerned with what the world should look like and how societies could be ideally organized. Therefore your own thoughts and opinions will play a major role in grasping the core of the concepts you will be confronted with. In other words, it is not about memorization, but about understanding.

***Class Attendance and Participation (30%):*** Each class period will involve a discussion of the readings assigned for that week. Readings are assigned per week and not for a specific day, but I expect you to have done all the readings for the week by Wednesday of each week. The reading amount in this course is substantial, and if you do not keep up with your assignments during the week, you will have a hard time participating in class-discussions or to prepare for potential quizzes. In regards to attendance, I expect you to come to every session to get full participation points. I will pass around an attendance sheet which you’ll have to sign. You will lose 20% of your attendance grade for each unexcused absence (i.e. after 5 absences, the best you can do in this course is 70%). Just to attend class, however, will also not assure you to get full participation points – you will also need to actively participate during class discussions. If I should have the impression that participation and attendance is dropping under an acceptable minimum, I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes during class. There is, however, the chance to make up for missed classes with outstanding participation reflected in a good grasp of the week’s reading.

***Midterm (Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>) – 35%:*** The Midterm will consist of 2 parts: a set of short-answer questions and an essay part. As you will see during the course, multiple choice questions are not suitable for political theory, as most political visions cannot be pinned down to a few characteristics.

***Final Exam (Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1pm)– 35%:*** Will have the same format as the midterm exam.

***Late Assignments:*** In case of extraordinary hardships late assignments and make-up exams can be accepted. The earlier you communicate any possible time-problems to me, the easier it will be to come to a solution. So let me know as soon as possible if you have the feeling that you might not be able to meet a certain deadline.

***Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:***

- A 100% - 90%
- B 89.9% - 80%
- C 79.9% - 70%
- D 69.9% - 60%
- E 59.9% - 0%

A student wishing to appeal any grade given in this class must make their request in writing prior to meeting with the instructor. The written appeal must be typed and clearly state the reason(s) the student feels the grade they received is incorrect. Appeals that just ask for more points will not be considered by the instructor. The Instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire exam

or assignment once an appeal is made, this may result in an increase or decrease in the score a student receives.

### ***Excused Absences***

Students need to notify the instructor of absences prior to class when possible. S.R. 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Information regarding dates of major religious holidays may be obtained through the religious liaison, Mr. Jake Karnes (859-257-2754).

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused or unexcused) per university policy.

### ***Verification of Absences***

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence.

### ***Academic Integrity***

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the university may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited. Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities (available online <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the question of plagiarism involving their own work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or something similar to this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone. When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain (Section 6.3.1).

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

### ***Accommodations due to disability***

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address: jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

### ***Classroom Behavior Policies***

I will tolerate no laptops except for note taking and I expect you to turn your cell phones on vibrate during class. Unless you are expecting an emergency call, you are not supposed to use your phone at any time. Disrespectful behavior towards your classmates or the instructor will be not be tolerated and can result in a lower participation grade.

## ***REQUIRED TEXTS***

All required readings are available in a reader you can buy at Johnny's Print.

## **SCHEDULE**

## **Introduction WEEK**

Review of the syllabus, general introduction.

## **WEEK 1 “Human Nature”**

George A Akerlof and Rachel E Kranton, *Identity economics: How our Identities shape our Work, Wages, and Well-Being* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2011)

Nicholas Wade, *The Faith Instinct: How Religion Evolved and Why It Endures* (New York: Penguin Press, 2009)

## **WEEK 2 “The Relevance of Political Theory”**

Niall Ferguson, *The Great Degeneration: How Institutions Decay and Economies Die* (London: Penguin Press HC, 2013), chap. 1 & 4

Erika Christakis, “Rape in India: A Result of Sex Selection,” *Time*, January 4, 2013

Charles Lindholm and Jose Pedro Zuquete, *The Struggle for the World: Liberation Movements for the 21st Century* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010)

## **WEEK 3 “The Institutionalization of Theory – The State”**

Introduction to Plato, Thomas Hobbes, G.W.F. Hegel in: Ian Adams und R.W. Dyson, *Fifty Major Political Thinkers*, 2. Edition. (Routledge, 2007)

Francis Fukuyama, “Do Institutions Really Matter?,” *The American Interest*, 2012

## **WEEK 4 “Different Visions Within the State”**

Introduction to John Locke and Niccolo Machiavelli in: Ian Adams und R.W. Dyson, *Fifty Major Political Thinkers*, 2. Edition. (Routledge, 2007)

Francis Fukuyama, “Natural Rights and Human History,” *The National Interest* (Summer 2001)

## **WEEK 5 “Values”**

Hubert Dreyfus and Sean Dorrance Kelly, *All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age* (New York: Free Press, 2011).

### **WEEK 6 “Multiculturalism”**

Francis Fukuyama, “The Primacy of Culture,” *Journal of Democracy* 6, no. 1 (1995): 7–14.

Francis Fukuyama, “Identity, Immigration & Democracy,” *Journal of Democracy* 17, no. 2 (April 2006): 5–20.

### **WEEK 7 “The Question of Equality”**

Isaiah Berlin, “The Originality of Machiavelli,” *Reading Political Philosophy: Machiavelli to Mill* (2001)

F. A. Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, Pbk. Ed (University Of Chicago Press, 1978). Chapters 5 and 6

### **WEEK 8 “The Question of Justice”**

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Reissue (Liberty Fund, 1984). Section II: “Of Justice and Beneficence”

John Rawls, “Justice as Fairness: Political Not Metaphysical,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 14, no. 3 (1985): 223–251;

### **WEEK 9 “The Question of Liberty”**

Introduction to John Stuart Mill in: Ian Adams and R.W. Dyson, *Fifty Major Political Thinkers* (Oxon: Routledge, 2007)

J. Fletcher Moulton, “*Law and Manners:*” *An Address* (Wilmington, Del.: Privately printed, 1923)

## **WEEK 10 “The Beginning of Modernity”**

Introduction to Jean-Jacques Rousseau in: Ian Adams und R.W. Dyson, *Fifty Major Political Thinkers*, 2. Edition. (Routledge, 2007)

L. P. Thiele, “Twilight of Modernity: Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Politics,” *Political Theory* 22, no. 3 (1994): 468–490

## **WEEK 11 “Modern Democracy”**

I. Berlin, “Democracy, Communism and the Individual,” (1949) *The Isaiah Berlin Virtual Library*

K. Minogue, “» Morals & the Servile Mind «,” *The New Criterion* 28, no. S 4 (2010)

## **WEEK 12 “Marxism”**

Introduction to Karl Marx in: Ian Adams und R.W. Dyson, *Fifty Major Political Thinkers*, 2. Edition. (Routledge, 2007)

Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels: *The Communist Manifesto*, (Blackboard)

## **WEEK 13 “Communism”**

Francois Furet, *The Passing of an Illusion: The Idea of Communism in the Twentieth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999).

Niall Ferguson, “We’re All State Capitalists Now,” *Foreign Policy* (February 9, 2012)

## **WEEK 14 “Fascism”**

Roger Griffin, *Modernism and Fascism: The Sense of a Beginning Under Mussolini and Hitler* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

Fritz R. Stern, *The Politics of Cultural Despair: A Study in the Rise of the Germanic Ideology* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1974)

### **WEEK 15 “Critical Theory”**

Introduction to Adorno, Horkheimer and Habermas in: Ian Adams und R.W. Dyson, *Fifty Major Political Thinkers*, 2. Edition. (Routledge, 2007); (Blackboard)

Powell, Jason L. and Harry R. Moody, 2003. “The Challenge of Modernity: Habermas and Critical Theory” *Theory and Science*, 14,1, 1-7

Rocco, Christopher. 1994. "Between Modernity and Postmodernity: Reading *Dialectic of Enlightenment* Against the Grain" *Political Theory* 22, 1, 71-97.

### **WEEK 16 “Future Challenges to Political Theory”**

Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?,” *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 22–49

Francis Fukuyama, “The Future of History,” *Foreign Affairs*, January 1, 2012