FOCUS

What is it to be human? What is human nature? How should society be organized? This course will discuss questions such as these through the study of a selection of classic works by political theorists such as, but not confined to Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche, among others. Our discussions will take us into the twentieth century, while also always attempting to tie the arguments of these authors to contemporary politics and society. We will begin the course with a discussion of Machiavelli.

TEXTS

Required:

Recommended:


There will be additional readings handed out during the course of the semester.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm Examination 20%

Research Paper 30%

Final Examination 30%

Class Citizenship 20%
CLASS POLICIES

1) Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class, tardiness and failure to participate in class discussion will negatively affect your grade in this class (class citizenship portion of the course grade).

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will be punished to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas. (See Below)

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no make-up exams will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments during the semester. In addition, each calendar day late that an assignment is, will result in a reduction of a full letter grade.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in this course except in the most extraordinary or circumstances.

PLAGIARISM

The following are some dictionary definitions of plagiarism:

• “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” (Collins).

• “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).

• “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster).

Plagiarism also includes:

• “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”

• “Text recycling - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
Common student misconceptions on plagiarism:\(^3\):

- “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”

- “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students:\(^4\):

- **Citation Guidelines**
  - Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed
  - An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing

- **Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:**
  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.
  - the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).
  - that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS**

August 22 - Introduction to the course.

**Part I – Toward a Theory of Democracy**

**Topic One:** The Liberal Idea

**Topic Two:** Communitarianism and Culture

**Topic Three:** The Conservative Disposition

**Topic Four:** Anarchism and Freedom

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\(^3\) Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.

\(^4\) Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.)
Part II – Grand Narratives

Topic Five: Nationalism and Beyond

Topic Six: Democratic Socialism

Topic Seven: Communism and Revolution

Topic Eight: The Fascist World View

Topic Nine: Religion and Politics

Part III – Radical Voices

Topic Ten: Critical Theory

Topic Eleven: The African-American Heritage

Topic Twelve: Gendered Experiences

Topic Thirteen: Postmodern Perspectives

Part IV – Charting the Future

Important Dates:

No Class, Monday, September 5, Labor Day

No Class, Monday, October 10, Fall Break

Midterm Examination, Wednesday, October 26

No Class, Wednesday, November 23, Thanksgiving Break

Last Day of Class, Monday, December 5

Research Papers are due on Monday, December 5

Wednesday, December 14, Final Examination, 11:00AM-1:30PM

PAPER REQUIREMENTS

The paper must be 8 to 10 pages in length (graduate students 15 to 20) pages in length). It must be typed, double-spaced, paginated, and must use an academically accepted format
for footnotes, citations and reference pages. A list of possible paper topics will be handed out. Once chosen, the paper topic along with a brief bibliography will have to be turned in to me on **October 26**. Since this is a research project, 10 to 12 sources must be cited, with at least four being from recent scholarly publications. In addition, periodicals, magazines and newspapers may be used. The major scholarly journals in political science are:

*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*Journal of Politics*
*American Review of Politics*
*Political Behavior*
*Public Opinion Quarterly*
*American Politics Research*
*American Politics Quarterly*
*Legislative Studies Quarterly*
*Presidential Studies Quarterly*
*Review of Politics*
*Political Research Quarterly*
*Policy Studies Review*
*Journal of Public Policy*
*Policy Studies*
*Southeastern Political Review*
*Polity*
*State Politics and Policy Quarterly*
*Party Politics*

Examples of other sources are periodicals such as *The Brookings Review* and *Cato*; magazines such as *The New Republic, The Progressive, and The National Review*; and newspapers such as *The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Washington Times* and *The Christian Science Monitor*. 