FOCUS

The aim of this course is to discuss and give an overview of major Western political thinkers and how their arguments and views regarding politics and society are central to understanding contemporary politics and society. Despite the title of the course, “From Plato to Machiavelli” our discussions will take us into the twentieth century, while also to paraphrase Tannenbaum, always attempting to examine the tensions between faith, reason, science and the skepticism that have been a mainstay of the history of political thought.

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\(^1\) 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\(^2\):

• “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 plagiarism³:

- “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 Students⁴:

- 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

January 23 - Introduction to the course.

**Topic One:** Political Philosophy: Introducing the Challenge

**Topic Two:** Plato: Advocating Justice

**Topic Three:** Aristotle: Endorsing Community

**Topic Four:** Cicero: Enlarging Citizenship

**Topic Five:** Augustine: Diminishing Politics

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.
Topic Six: Aquinas: Christianizing Leadership

Topic Seven: Luther and Calvin: Reconfiguring Authority

Topic Eight: Machiavelli: Escaping Anarchy


Topic Ten: Locke: Protecting Property

Topic Eleven: Rousseau: Establishing Democracy

Topic Twelve: Mary Wollstonecraft: Modernizing Feminism

Topic Thirteen: Burke: Grounding Tradition

Topic Fourteen: Mill: Advancing Liberty

Topic Fifteen: Marx: Revealing History’s Meaning

Topic Sixteen: Postmodern Political Thought: Disputing Modernity

Topic Seventeen: Inventors of Ideas and Their Inventions: The Continuing Challenge

Important Dates:

No Class, March 13 – 17, Spring Break

Midterm Examination, Wednesday, March 22

No Class, April 13 - 14, Easter Break

2017 UST Research Symposium, April 6-7

Last Day of Class, Wednesday, May 3

Research Papers are due on Wednesday, May 3

Wednesday, May 10, Final Examination, 12-2:30PM
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 by next week. Once chosen, the paper topic along with a brief bibliography will have to be turned in to me on March 22. 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.