

MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
Pols160B – Spring 2017
San José State University

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: 12-1:15PM

LECTURE LOCATION: SWEENEY HALL 240

OFFICE HOURS: T/TR 7:30AM-8:45AM, 1:30-2:30PM.

OFFICE LOCATION: CLARK HALL 455

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to reawaken many of the important debates which shaped our political heritage. The era beginning with the English Civil War and ending with the French Revolution left a deep and lasting impression on our perceptions of the political environment. This period is usually considered the key period in the development of Western political theory. In this course, we will examine war, empire, virtue, liberty, rights, contract theory, democracy, populism, realism, gender, and revolution, among other big ideas.

PREREQUISITES

This course is not designed exclusively for political science students. Students from many other majors have proven that they can do as well in this course as Political Science majors. All students, however, need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Students should be aware that this is a reading (and writing) intensive course. Political Science 3 is the suggested prerequisite, but philosophy, literature, and history courses frequently can provide sufficient practice in reading original sources.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hobbes, Leviathan.
Locke, Second Treatise on Government.
Mandeville, Fable of the Bees.
Rousseau, Basic Political Writings.
Paine, Rights of Man.
Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The B.A. in Political Science requires majors to take a minimum of one upper division course in political thought. This course fulfills that requirement, as well as counting towards the normal total of upper division courses.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1st Essay (30%) 2nd Essay (30%)
 Midterm (15%) Final (15%)
 Class Participation (10%)

Grading Scale

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-93
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
NP or F	59 or less

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

BY THE END OF THE COURSE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

CLO 1: PRESENT IN WRITING THEORETICALLY/HISTORICALLY INFORMED OPINIONS CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF DIFFERENT THEORETICAL SYSTEMS TO SELECTED PUBLIC POLICY AREAS

CLO2: PRESENT IN WRITING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE WAY POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES EMPLOY THE APPLICATION OF COMPETING THEORETICAL APPROACHES IN MATTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY AND NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CLO3: RECOGNIZE SOME WIDELY EMPLOYED THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES WITHIN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND BEYOND, ACROSS THE POLITICAL CULTURE MORE BROADLY, UNDERSTANDING THEIR LOGIC AND THEIR SCOPE OF APPLICATION

CLO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
CLO 1,2,3	ESSAYS	60	3/21 5/16
CLO 3	MIDTERM	15	3/23
CLO3	FINAL EXAM	15	5/23
CLO 1,2,3	CLASS PARTICIPATION	10	

CALENDAR

Tuesday		Thursday	
		1/26	Introduction
1/31	Hobbes	2/2	Hobbes
2/7	Hobbes	2/9	Hobbes
2/14	Locke	2/16	Locke
2/21	Locke	2/23	Locke
2/28	Rousseau	3/2	Rousseau
3/7	Rousseau	3/9	Rousseau
3/14	Writing Week	3/16	Writing Week
3/21	Revision	3/23	Examination
3/28	Spring Break	3/30	Spring Break
4/4	Mandeville	4/6	Mandeville
4/11	Mandeville	4/13	Mandeville
4/18	Paine	4/20	Paine
4/25	Paine	4/27	Paine
5/2	Wollstonecraft	5/4	Wollstonecraft
5/9	Wollstonecraft	5/11	Writing Class
5/16	Writing Class/Revision		

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY MAY 23RD, 9:45-12:00

Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Because this is a 3-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one.

For this class, students will complete two in-class examinations, and two full-length research essays, which require detailed review of the primary source material and the application of at least two outside scholarly sources relevant to the research topic.

Assignments

Examinations (2 X 15%) You are required to take two exams that will test

readings and lectures in a short answer response format. There are no “excused” absences from exams except in dire emergencies with official documentation. Makeup exams will only be scheduled for those who can provide adequate documentation of a valid emergency.

Essays (2 X 30%) The essays will each be 1000 words in length. Students should meet with the professor at least once prior to beginning the essay in order to discuss their outline, thesis, and secondary source materials.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO1: Breadth

Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO2: Application

Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: Disciplinary methods

Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO4: Communication Skills

Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO5: Citizenship

Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

University Policies

Per University Policy SI 6-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

QUESTIONS?

Finally, if you get stuck, feel overwhelmed, or just want to clarify something from the reading or lectures, ask me. I am here to help.