

MODERN POLITICAL THEORY  
Pols 160B – Spring 2019  
San José State University

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: 9:00AM-10:15AM

LECTURE LOCATION: DMH 160

OFFICE HOURS: TR 7:00AM-7:30AM, 12:00PM TO 12:30PM (ZOOM), AND 12:30PM-1:30PM AND BY APPOINTMENT.

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to reawaken many of the important debates that shaped our political heritage. The era beginning with the Italian Renaissance 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 (PDFS PROVIDED)

Machiavelli, *The Discourses*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*.

Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*.

Mandeville, *Fable of the Bees*.

Rousseau, *Social Contract*.

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

Quizzes (40%)  
Midterm (30%)      Final (30%)

### Grading Scale

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

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

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

DEMONSTRATE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOPIC AREAS EXAMINED IN THE COURSE CLO2:  
DEMONSTRATE SPECIFIC TEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFERENT THINKERS CLO3: DEMONSTRATE  
UNDERSTANDING OF CORE CONCEPTS OF THE THINKERS UNDER EXAMINATION.

CLO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
CLO 2	MIDTERM	30	TBA
CLO2	FINAL	30	TBA
CLO 1,2,3	QUIZZES	40	WEEKLY

## CALENDAR

Monday		Wednesday	
		1/24	Introduction
1/29	Machiavelli	1/31	Machiavelli
2/5	Machiavelli	2/7	Machiavelli
2/12	Hobbes	2/14	Hobbes
2/19	Hobbes	2/21	Hobbes
2/26	Locke	3/28	Locke
3/5	Locke	3/7	Locke
3/12	Revision	3/14	Revision
3/19	Revision	3/21	Examination
3/26	Rousseau	3/28	Rousseau
4/2	Spring Break	4/4	Spring Break
4/9	Rousseau	4/11	Rousseau
4/16	Mandeville	4/18	Mandeville
4/23	Mandeville	4/25	Mandeville
4/30	Wollstonecraft	5/2	Wollstonecraft
5/7	Wollstonecraft	5/9	Wollstonecraft
Final Exam See Canvas			

### 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

**Quizzes (50%)** Weekly quizzes will be taken online and will test knowledge of lecture material and textual interpretation.

**Examinations (50%)** The examinations will test knowledge of core concepts, comparison between thinkers, and textual understanding.

## 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 and Disciplinary Methods

Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

### PSPLO3: 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.

### PSPLO4: 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.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct)

## CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

See <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm> about Academic Senate Policy S90-5

## PLAGIARISM

See [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct) (Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Dev)

## 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.