

THE WESTERN TRADITION: FROM MACHIAVELLI TO MARX

790:372:01 ~ Spring 2017

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Meeting Times: M/W 5:35–6:55 PM
Location: Hickman Hall, Room 201
Office Hours: M/W 3:30–5:30 PM
& By Appointment

I. INTRODUCTION

This course surveys the development of central political concepts and core texts in modern Western political thought from the early sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Proceeding relatively chronologically, we will focus on the development and influence of key themes, questions, and concepts that have been central in the history of modern political thought, including: the origins of the modern state; the nature of political obligation, legitimacy, and authority; the relationship between religion and the state; the development of modern social contract theory; as well as the historical rise of capitalism and its influence on the shape of modern political thinking.

II. COURSE OVERVIEW

Required Materials: Most of the readings for this course are taken from *Modern Political Thought* (Hackett Publishing Company, 2008, 2nd Edition), edited by David Wootton (ISBN: 9780872208971), and available for purchase from the Rutgers University bookstore. Additional readings will be provided through library course reserves and/or the Sakai course site.

Course Format, Expectations, and Grades: This course will be modeled on a seminar format combining class discussion, group work, and written assignments. Bring the assigned reading with you to class and come prepared to talk and ask questions about what you've read. You will be required to complete brief in-class written responses to assigned readings at the beginning of some class meetings. Reading and discussion questions for each unit will be circulated prior to when the assigned reading will be discussed. These questions are designed to help guide your reading and you should bring written notes in response to them, as well as questions of your own, to class meetings. Your short responses to the reading questions will be collected occasionally throughout the semester. Though there will be some light lecturing and instructor-led presentation of the material, the bulk of each class meeting will rely on your active participation in discussions or in-class assignments and group work.

In addition to submitting notes in response to designated reading and discussion questions, students will be responsible for completing four short analysis papers, an in-class midterm exam, a midterm take home essay, and an in-class final exam.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Attendance and Participation	10%
Reading and Discussion Questions	10%
Analysis Papers (4)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Midterm Essay	20%
Final Exam	20%

III. COURSE POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION

Attendance: Students must attend all scheduled course meetings and abide by the university’s attendance policies regarding absences. This means that **you must arrive to every class on time and stay for the duration**. Any student intending to miss class or arrive late for excusable reasons must inform me a minimum of one week prior to the missed class. **If you have 4 or more unexcused absences, you are at risk of failing this course**. All students must report absences using the university’s self-reporting absence system (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>). The university’s policy on absences for religious observances is as follows:

“It is University policy (University Regulation on Attendance, Book 2, 2.47B, formerly 60.14f) to excuse without penalty students who are absent from class because of religious observance, and to allow the make-up of work missed because of such absence. Examinations and special required out-of-class activities shall ordinarily not be scheduled on those days when religiously observant students refrain from participating in secular activities. Absences for reasons of religious obligation shall not be counted for purposes of reporting.”

It is the responsibility of the student to provide timely notification about necessary absences for religious observances. Students are also “...responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.” All make up exams must be arranged with me prior to the missed exam.

Participation: This class depends heavily on the active involvement of each student. Your participation is essential to discussing and learning about the subject matter. Participation will be taken into account when determining your final grade and you will have a variety of ways to earn credit for your participation. Aside from impacting your final grade, active participation and in-class discussion is central to getting the most out of this course for yourself and your peers.

Email, Announcements, and Classroom Technology: You are required to regularly check your RU student email account and the Sakai course site. Failure to regularly check your student email account is not an acceptable excuse. You may contact me with questions and concerns through my email address, noahres@rci.rutgers.edu. Please be advised that you must allow 24 hours (Monday–Friday) or 48 hours (Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays) from the time your email is sent to receive a response. The use of phones and other mobile devices to make or receive, calls (telephone or other), text messages, tweets, snapchats, status updates, or any communication with your physical, digital, or imaginary social network during class is strictly prohibited. Your phone, computer, or tablet should only be used for taking notes during class or working on in-

class assignments. The use of smartphones, tablets, netbooks, laptops, etc. during class is at my discretion. I reserve the right to prohibit the use of technological devices if they prove disruptive or distracting, and to request electronic copies of your notes.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: All students should be familiar with and abide by the University's policy on academic integrity. Information and resources on this policy are available online at: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>. Plagiarism and the University's policy on academic integrity can be complicated. You are expected to make an effort to learn about plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, as well as how to avoid them. Taking the time to do so will help ensure that you do not violate the University's policy. Keep in mind that accidental plagiarism is still plagiarism. **Academic dishonesty in any form on any assignment is prohibited.**

Office Hours: I will be holding regular office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. If you would like to attend office hours but are unable to do so at the regularly scheduled time, please email me to make alternative arrangements. I am happy to answer any questions you may have during the semester and always enjoy the opportunity to discuss your thoughts on the material we'll be covering.

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disability Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 that mandate that reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please register with the Office of Disability Services for Students, which is dedicated to providing services and administering exams with accommodation for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services for Students can be contacted by calling (848) 445-6800 and is located on the Livingston campus at the following address: 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Suite a145, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

The Writing Center: Rutgers University Writing Centers provide tutoring for enrolled students at centers located on College Avenue, Cook/Douglass, and Livingston campuses. Writing Center staff can assist you in the writing process, from brainstorming to organizing and developing your ideas, to citing sources to proofreading. Staff work with students from across the university on a variety of different written assignments and projects to improve the quality of student writing. Both long-term tutoring and drop-in sessions are available. For more information, including hours of operation and instructions on how to make an appointment, please visit wp.rutgers.edu.

Please Note: This syllabus is subject to change and students should regularly check the Sakai course site for the most recent version. Readings and assignments may be removed, added or modified at my discretion. All major changes will be announced in class and through the course site.

IV. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND READING SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, assigned selections can be found in *Modern Political Thought*, edited by David Wootton. Readings marked with “ * ” on the schedule below will be made available on library reserve and/or in PDF format on the Sakai course site.

January 18	Course Introduction
January 23	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> —, “Letter to Francesco Vettori”
January 25–30	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>Discourses on Livy</i>
February 1	John Calvin, “On Civil Government”
February 6–13	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
February 15–20	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i>
February 22	John Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration*</i> David Hume, “Of the Original Contract”
February 27	Bernard Mandeville, <i>The Fable of the Bees*</i> Adam Smith, <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>
March 1	Adam Smith, <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>
March 6	***Midterm Exam***
March 8	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*</i>
March 11 – March 19	***No Class – Spring Recess***
March 20–22	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i>
March 27	Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>
March 29	Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>
April 3	Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>

April 5	Benjamin Constant, “On Ancient and Modern Liberty” Jeremy Bentham, “An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation”
April 10–17	J. S. Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> J. S. Mill, <i>Considerations on Representative Government</i> *
April 19	Karl Marx, “Toward a Critique of Hegel’s <i>Philosophy of Right: Introduction</i> ” —, “Alienated Labor” from <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> —, “Theses on Feuerbach” Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, <i>The German Ideology</i>
April 24–26	Karl Marx, <i>The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte</i> —, <i>The Civil War in France</i> (selections) —, “Critique of the Gotha Program” —, Preface to <i>A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy</i> —, <i>Capital</i> (selections)
May 1	Course Conclusion & Final Exam Review

*****Final Exam TBA** (finalexams.rutgers.edu)***

Grading Rubric For All Written Work

	A	B	C	D/F
Argument/Analysis	Makes clear and compelling argument. Solid reasoning. Offers insightful analysis	Makes clear argument, based on plausible readings. Some effort to sustain argument throughout the analysis.	Attempts to offer a cogent argument and analysis, but argument and analysis are based on faulty reasoning.	Failure to make a cogent argument or to offer sound analysis.
Writing/Grammar	Well-written. Appropriate word choices. Free of grammar and spelling mistakes.	Well-written, but may include a handful of grammar, spelling, or word choice mistakes.	Multiple errors, but still clearly intelligible.	Multiple errors that interfere substantially with comprehension.
Organization/Structure	Clear, easy to follow organization with intro, body, conclusion. Provides reader with a “road map” of essay.	Clear organization with some road map for reader.	Some effort to structure the paper, but organization is problematic or difficult to follow.	Disorganized and difficult or impossible to follow.
Use/mastery of readings	Uses multiple readings and demonstrates mastery of facts and arguments made in readings.	References multiple readings and demonstrates a good degree of understanding.	Minimal use of readings and/or failure to demonstrate adequate mastery of readings.	Failure to use readings