POLI 7981–SEMINAR IN CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THEORY
Spring Semester 2011, Stubbs 234, Mondays, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Prof. Ellis Sandoz, 212 Stubbs Hall, <esandoz@lsu.edu> Office hour: 12:00 daily; 578-7888

Course description: This seminar addresses in a selective way key theoretical underpinnings of Western political order from late antiquity until the rise of modern republican constitutionalism. Emphasis will be placed on: the noetic and pneumatic differentiations and conflicts shaping the vast subject matter; their institutionalization; the epochal break effected by the leap in being as manifested and deformed in a variety of ways in the post-Axial Age; the clash between the Christian west and Muslim east; faith and its mystical underpinnings; and the flowering of Anglo-American constitutionalism. Students will be required to submit six (6) papers each (Team A*, B**) for presentation in class (60%) and complete a final paper (40%), which may or may not be a take-home exam. Attendance of every class meeting is mandatory.

Reading Schedule 2011 (tentative!)

Jan. 24: Intro. and Cicero, Commonwealth*

Jan. 31: Cicero, Laws; Voegelin, Ecumenic Age, intro.**

Feb. 7: Voegelin, Ecumenic Age, chaps. 1-3*

Feb. 14: Voegelin, Ecumenic Age, chaps. 4-7**

Feb. 21: Thomas Aquinas, Summa contra gentiles (I), chaps. 1-83*

Feb. 28: Cont’d**

Mar. 7: Mardi Gras holiday

Mar. 14: Theologia Germanica of Martin Luther*

Mar. 21: Richard Hooker, Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity**

Mar. 28: Cont’d*

Apr. 4: The Roots of Liberty: Magna Carta, Ancient Constitution, & the Anglo-American Tradition of Rule of Law, ed. & intro. E. Sandoz**

>>>>>>>>Last day to drop or resign

Apr. 11: Cont’d*

Apr. 18: Spring Break

Apr. 25: John Milton’s Aeropagitica & other Political Writings**

May 2: Cont’d Last class–course review & concluding discussion

May 10: Final Papers due
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