INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2060

Royalists, Republicans and Revolutionaries

Tuesday/Thursday 1:40-3:00 PM

Instructor: William Schulz
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Office: Stubbs Hall 307
Office Hours: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment

Course Overview

This course is meant to be a general undergraduate survey of Western political philosophy as it has evolved over time from the days of ancient Greece and Rome to our current age, the post-modern era. We will begin by discussing the nature of political order and the forms of regime that have been adopted by various governments over the course of history. As the semester progresses, our discussions will focus on the implementation of two types of regime: monarchy and the republic, and the difficult periods of regime change that often occur throughout history.

As this course counts as a general education credit for the social sciences, students will be expected to meet the goals of LSU's general education curriculum. According to the LSU catalogue, “General education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather, they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. Their primary aim is to educate rather than train, and to instill a desire for life-long learning.” In light of this, students will directly confront the larger questions raised by political philosophy and interpret them in light of current political concerns, both national and international. It is hoped that by approaching the study of political philosophy as a holistic enterprise concerned with all aspects of the existence of the human person, by the end of the course, students will emerge better equipped to critically examine issues raised by the political leaders and thinkers of our day.

Course Requirements

Participation: While meditation on the deeper questions of being in the privacy and silence of one's own home may lead to the occasional valuable insight, experience has shown that the study of political philosophy in a group setting tends to produce wider and more frequent bursts of understanding. As such, students will be required to attend each scheduled class meeting. In addition, students will be expected to have read the assigned text prior to class, and be prepared for in-depth discussion of the material. While most classes will emphasize the lecture format, the instructor will often employ the Socratic Method to challenge students' understanding of the material covered to date. Reference to the assigned material will occur frequently throughout each class period, so it is to the student's advantage to bring the relevant text to class. In order to promote a comfortable and focused learning environment, please do not bring laptop computers to class, and please silence all cellular telephones prior to the start of class. I have no objection to the use of recording devices in class, provided that it is understood that any such recordings
may be used only for the purpose of facilitating note-taking and test-preparation. Any commercial use or publication of lecture material without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. Participation will be worth 10% of the overall grade. Students may earn participation points by (a) providing thoughtful answers to in-class questions that demonstrate knowledge of the assigned reading material (5%) and (b) doing well on written pop quizzes (5%).

Tests: In order to maximize the opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge of course material, three tests will be given throughout the semester. Each test will be worth 20% of the overall grade. It is to the student's advantage not to miss class, as test questions will be drawn from both assigned readings and in-class discussions. The test dates and topics are shown below; any changes to these dates or topics will be announced in class.

Papers: The study of political philosophy requires direct engagement with the ideas of the great political philosophers. Throughout the semester, two short papers (3-5 pages) will be assigned. Topics will be assigned by the dates indicated and will be drawn primarily from themes raised by the texts. A handout regarding citation style and overall paper format will be distributed prior to the due date for the first paper. Each paper will be worth 15% of the overall grade. Students will benefit greatly from reading Christopher Lasch's *Plain Style: A Guide to Written English*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Breakdown</th>
<th>Test 1 - 20%</th>
<th>Test 2 - 20%</th>
<th>Test 3 - 20%</th>
<th>Paper 1 - 15%</th>
<th>Paper 2 - 15%</th>
<th>Participation - 10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100% = A</td>
<td>80 - 89% = B</td>
<td>70 - 79% = C</td>
<td>60 - 69% = D</td>
<td>0 - 59% = F</td>
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**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to the university learning environment. Each student will be expected to abide by the Louisiana State University Code of Student Conduct at all times. An understanding of plagiarism and related concepts is central to maintaining academic integrity. Many bright and talented students often prematurely terminate their careers due to ignorance of the nature of plagiarism. In order to minimize the chance of students falling afoul of plagiarism rules, each student is advised to consult LSU's Student Life and Enrollment website concerning rules for academic integrity. The following web address will lead students to LSU's accepted definition of plagiarism: http://saa.lsu.edu/Plagiarism.html Should students have further concerns regarding this matter, they may consult with the instructor or with the Center for Academic Success at Coates Hall room B-31.

**Required Texts**

Course dates, required readings, and discussion topics

Monarchy and classical political theory

January 17 - Introduction, course overview

   Required Reading: None

January 19 - The Forms of Constitution

   Required Reading: Aristotle's *The Politics* (Books III & IV)

January 24 - The Virtues of Monarchy and Aristocracy

   Required Reading: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Introduction - 22 (Book I)

January 26 - Just Kingship

   Required Reading: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, 23 - 64 (Books II & III), St. Thomas Aquinas' *De Reginmine Principum*

January 31 - Practical Considerations of Monarchy

   Required Reading: Selections from "Of Commonwealth" in Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan*

February 2 - Regime Change in Classical Political Theory

   Required Reading: Selections from Aristotle, Aquinas, Hobbes

The Republic

February 7 - Republican Ideals

   Required Reading: The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution

February 9 - A Republic of Virtue

   Required Reading: Selections from Aristotle's *The Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics*, St. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, Part II, Question 40 (Just War)
February 14 - Theories of Republicanism (Continental); Paper Topic 1 assigned

Required Reading: Selections from Plato, Cicero and Kant

February 16 - Theories of Republicanism (Anglo-American)

Required Reading: Selections from Algernon Sidney and Thomas Jefferson

February 21 Mardi Gras Holiday

February 23 - Practical Concerns in Republican Government

Required Reading: Selections from Book I of Niccolò Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*

February 28 - The Modern Constitutional Republic

Required Reading: *Federalist* 10, 23, 51, the United States Constitution

March 1 - Test 1

**Radicals and Revolutionaries**

March 6 - Introduction to Marxism

Required Reading: Karl Marx's *The Communist Manifesto*

March 8 - Marxist Revolutionary Philosophy

Required Reading: *The Communist Manifesto* (cont.) and Marx's *Theses on Feuerbach*

March 13 - Marxism Redefined; Paper 1 due

Required Reading: Selections from Lenin and Mao Zedong

March 15 - Insurrection

Required Reading: Selections from Ernesto "Che" Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare*

March 20 - Reactionary Revolution (Fascism)

Required Reading: Selections from Benito Mussolini's *La Dottrina del Fascismo*

March 22 - Reactionary Revolution (National Socialism)

Required Reading: Selections from Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*
March 27 - The Radical Mind; Paper 2 assigned
  
  Required Reading: Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*

March 29 - Organizing the Revolution

  Required Reading: *Rules for Radicals* (cont.)

April 2 - Final date to drop this course

April 3 - Test 2

**Counter-Revolutionary Thought**

April 5 - The Devolution of the Revolution
  
  Required Reading: Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Spring Break April 6 - 15

April 17 - The Price of Regime Change and Failed Revolutions
  
  Required Reading: Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

April 19 - The Failure of Mass Political Movements
  
  Required Reading: Jose Oretga y Gasset's *Revolt of the Masses*

April 24 - The Failure of Mass Political Movements
  
  Required Reading: Oretga y Gasset's *Revolt of the Masses* (cont.)

April 26 - The Failure of Mass Political Movements; Paper 2 due
  
  Required Reading: Oretga y Gasset's *Revolt of the Masses* (cont.)

May 1 - The Failure of Mass Political Movements
  
  Required Reading: Oretga y Gasset's *Revolt of the Masses* (cont.)

May 3 - Review for Final and Course Evaluation

May 7 - Test 3 (Final Exam) 7:30 - 9:30 AM