POLI 7982 SEMINAR IN MODERN POLITICAL THEORY  
Spring Semester 2012, Stubbs 210, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon  
Prof. Ellis Sandoz, 212 Stubbs Hall, <esandoz@lsu.edu> Office hour: 12:00 PM daily; 229-8902

POLITICS AS A PHILOSOPHICAL SCIENCE AND THE MODERN CRISIS

Course description: This seminar explores the grounding of political science as a *philosophical science* of human affairs especially in light of Eric Voegelin's critique and as a vital means of resistance to contemporary intellectual and spiritual corruption and crisis in a wide spectrum of manifestations. It also addresses in a selective way key manifestations of the complexities of contemporary political revolutionism, concentrating on totalitarian socialism and its existential consequences. Emphasis will be placed: (1) on the noetic and pneumatic differentiations foundational for political science as a philosophical science *per se* and the differentiated human reality it supports, especially as that is argued by Eric Voegelin; (2) the rejection of this perspective or its distortion by revolutionaries of various descriptions; (3) the indispensable place of such an analysis in any cogent principled resistance to crisis and to the preservation of human existence and a political order of liberty under law preeminently represented by Anglo-American constitutionalism; and (4) diagnosis of, and therapy for, the reductionist destruction of reality through ideology and radical eschatological politics more generally. Students will be required to submit six (6) papers each (Team A*, B**) for presentation in class (60%) and to complete a final paper (40%), which may or may not be a take-home exam. A 10% penalty on the term average will be assessed for each un-excused class absence.

Reading Schedule = Spring Semester 2012
Jan. 18: Intro and Huxley, *Brave New World*; Sandoz, "What is Mystic Philosophy and Why it Matters"
Jan. 25: Cont’d

Feb. 1: Richard Hooker, *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, intro & bk 1*

Feb. 8: Hooker cont’d, bk 8

Feb. 15: John Bunyan, *Pilgrim’s Progress*
Feb. 22: >>No class–Mardi Gras!


Mar. 7: Sandoz, *Republicanism* cont’d, chaps. 5-9


Mar. 21: Voegelin, *Anamnesis*, cont’d, Parts I & II

Mar. 28: Voegelin, *Hitler*, chaps. 1-3

Apr. 4:  Voegelin, *Hitler*, cont’d, chaps. 4-8  
      >>Apr. 2 final day to drop or resign

Apr. 11: >>No class–Spring Break Apr. 6-15

Apr. 18: Tocqueville, *The Ancien régime and the Revolution*
Apr. 25: Cont’d

May 2: John Adams, *Political Writings of John Adams*, ed. G. A. Peek;  Last class–course review & concluding discussion

May 9: Final Exam/Paper due
REQUIRED BOOKS FOR POLI 7982
Spring Semester 2012
Professor Ellis Sandoz

15 COPIES EACH:

ISBN 13: 978-087220991 (pbk)

John Bunyan. The Pilgrim’s Progress
Aeterna Pubs. 2010
ISBN 978-1-4444-0941-3 (pbk)

Richard Hooker. Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, ed. A. S. McGrade
Cambridge UP
Cambridge Texts in the Hist. of Political Thought (1989)
ISBN 0-521-37908-3 (pbk)

Aldous Huxley. Brave New World (c. 1932)
ISBN 10: 0-06-085052-3 (pbk)

Ellis Sandoz. Republicanism, Religion and the Soul of America
University of Missouri Press (2006)

Penguin Books 2008
ISBN: 978-0-141-44164-X (pbk)


Eric Voegelin, Anamnesis, trans. & ed. G. Niemeyer
ISBN 0-8262-0737-5 (pbk)

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