

PS 4453/6453
Western Political Theory
Spring Semester 2005
Monday & Wednesday 6:00 – 7:15 PM, Hilbun 152

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the “canon” of Western political thought, understood generally as Plato to Marx. We will discuss the following questions:

- how the theorist shaped the arguments about the nature and purposes of politics
- how and why certain ideas changed through history
- how these theories relate to today’s political questions and issues
- the truth of theoretical claims made and their practical significance
- how alternative approaches to interpretation influence meaning

The objective of this course is to familiarize students to the extent that they can be competent, conversant, and knowledgeable about most major works in political theory.

Books:

Cornford, F.M. *Before and After Socrates*, Cambridge University Press, 1933, ISBN 0521091136

Finley, M.I. *Politics in the Ancient World*, Reissued, Cambridge University Press, 1991, ISBN 0521406730

Strauss, Leo and Joseph Cropsey (eds.), *History of Political Philosophy*, Third Edition, University of Chicago Press, 1987, ISBN 0226777103

The attached reading list provides links to the original texts or translations thereof (also available at <http://www.joeadams.net/> under “Links for Students.”). As always, students are free to purchase as many of the books cited as they please; however, these links provide the same material free of charge. Nevertheless, students will be expected to be familiar with selected portions of every text listed (selections to be announced in class).

Assignments:

Two short papers will be assigned (5-10 pages each). A mid-term and final will be administered. Study guides will be distributed in class at least two weeks prior to the exams. All examination questions and items for identification will be on the study guides. A letter grade will be deducted for each calendar day a paper is late.

Please note: Interruptions from cell phones will not be tolerated. Cell phone interruptions will count against your grade.

(Updated 11/22/2004)

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Course Schedule

- January 17 & 19: Introduction: Theory & Philosophy**
Strauss & Cropsey (Tarcov & Pangle), pp. 907 – 934
Cornford, *Before and After Socrates* (Entire book)
- January 24 & 26: Thucydides, Socrates, Plato & Aristotle**
Reading List: Thucydides to Aristotle
Finley, *Politics in the Ancient World* (Selections)
- January 26 & 27: The Classical Perspective**
Commentary: Strauss & Cropsey, pp. 1 – 175
Finley, *Politics in the Ancient World* (Selections)
Movie: History Channel: *The Romans*
(Study Guide/Short Answer Test)
- Jan. 31 & Feb. 2: The Challenge of Christianity & Religion**
Readings List: St. Augustine to St. Thomas Aquinas
Movie: Name of the Rose
(Study Guide/Short Answer Test)
- February 7 & 9: Heaven & Hell (Paper 1 Assignments will be distributed)**
Commentary: Strauss & Cropsey, pp. 176 – 295
- February 14 & 16: Trouble in Paradise**
Reading List: Machiavelli to Thomas Hobbes
- February 21 & 23: Reformation and the Birth of Modernity**
Commentary: Strauss & Cropsey, pp. 296-475
- Feb. 28. & March 2: Review: Classical versus Modern Perspectives**
Students will describe their thoughts about the readings (Reflection Log)
- March 7 & 9: Paper 1 Due, Exam Review March 8, Midterm Exam March 9**
Study Guide: Review, Exam
- March 21 & 23: Contract Theory**
Reading List: Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau
- March 28 & 30: States of Nature**
Commentary: Strauss & Cropsey, pp. 396-580
Movie: Danton
(Study Guide/Short Answer Test)
- April 4 & 6: Utilitarian & Kantian Perspectives (Paper 2 Assignment)**
Reading List: Hume to Mill; Strauss & Cropsey, pp. 535-731, 784-801
- April 11 & 13: Hegel & Marx**
Reading List: Hegel; Strauss & Cropsey, pp.732-828
- April 18 & 20: Nietzsche & Aristotle**
Reading List: Nietzsche; Strauss & Cropsey, pp. 829-850
Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, Section 335 (Class Handout)
- April 25 & 27: Movie: Cool Hand Luke**
(Study Guide/Short Answer Test)
- April 29 & 30: Review, Paper 2 Due – April 29 (Reflection Log)**
- Final Exam as Regularly Scheduled**

Reading List

Thucydides (471-400 BCE)

Biography: <http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/thucydides.html>;
<http://www.knowledgerush.com/kr/jsp/db/author.jsp?authorId=458&authorName=Thucydides> ;

History of the Peloponnesian War: <http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.html>

See also Pericles (495 – 429 BCE):

Biography: <http://www.crystalinks.com/pericles.html>

Pericles Funeral Oration: <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/GREECE/PERICLES.HTM>

Socrates (469-399 BCE)

Biography: <http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/socr.htm>

(Plato) *The Apology*: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>

Plato (427-327 BCE)

Biography: <http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Plato.html>

The Republic: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>

Aristotle (384-322 BCE)

Biography: <http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Aristotle.html>

The Nichomachean Ethics: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>

The Politics <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>

Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 121 – 180; Emperor 161-180)

Biography: <http://www.roman-emperors.org/marcaur.htm>

The Meditations: <http://classics.mit.edu/Antoninus/meditations.html>

St. Augustine (A.D. 354-430)

Biography: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02084a.htm>

The City of God: <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1201.htm>,

(In Latin): <http://www.augustinian.villanova.edu/AugustinianStudies/city.html>

The Holy Quran: <http://info.uah.edu/msa/quran.html>

Moses Maimonides, (Abu Amran Musa, 1135-1204)

Biography: <http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/biography/Maimonides.html>,

<http://www.panix.com/~jjbaker/rambam.html>

Guide to the Perplexed: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/gfp/gfp.htm> [this is the entire work with table of contents, preface, etc.]

(excerpts): <http://www.cirp.org/library/cultural/maimonides/>

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Biography: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14663b.htm>

The Summa Theologica: <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>

Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)

Biography: <http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/macv.htm>

(See also for texts links: <http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/96may/machiavelli.html>)

The Prince: <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince00.htm> , also

The Discourses: http://www.constitution.org/mac/disclivv_.htm

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Biography: <http://www.luther.de/en/leben.html> ; see also

<http://www.hfac.uh.edu/gbrown/philosophers/leibniz/BritannicaPages/Luther/Luther.html>

95 Theses: <http://www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html>

Against the Murdering and Thieving Hordes of Peasants (class handout)

John Calvin (1509-1564)

Biography: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03195b.htm>

Institutes of the Christian Religion: <http://www.ccel.org/c/calvin/institutes/booki/booki.htm>

See also: http://www.reformed.org/calvinism/index.html?mainframe=5Points_Dabney.html;

and <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/REFORM/CALVIN.HTM>

Hugo Grotius (Huig de Groot, 1583-1645)

Biography: <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/philosophers/grotius.html>

On the Law of War and Peace: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Thebes/8098/>

***Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)**

Biography: <http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Hobbes.html>

The Leviathan: <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>

***John Locke (1632-1704)**

Biography: <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/l/locke.htm>

Second Treatise on Government (pdf): <http://www.ecn.bris.ac.uk/het/locke/government.pdf>

See also, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1690locke-sel.html>

***Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)**

Biography: <http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/96jun/rousseau.html>, see also

<http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/r/rousseau.htm>, or <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/rousse.htm>

Discourse on Inequality: <http://www.wsu.edu:8001/~dee/ENLIGHT/DISC2.HTM>

David Hume (1711-1776)

Biography: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hume/>

An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals:

<http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/Hume-Enquiry%20Concerning%20Morals.htm>

Adam Smith (1723-1790)

Biography: <http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/profiles/smith.htm>

The Wealth of Nations: <http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html>

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

Biography: <http://www.friesian.com/kant.htm>; see also

<http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/kant.htm>

Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals:

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/poli/texts/kant/kantcon.htm>

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)

Biography: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Bentham-Project/>

Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation:

<http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/poltheory/bentham/ipml/ipml.toc.html>

Marquis de Sade (1740-1814)

Biography : <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/desade.htm> , See also book

<http://neilschaeffer.com/sade/timeline/>

Philosophy of the Bedroom (zipped file): <http://www.supervert.com/elibrary/sade.html>

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

Biography (Autobiography): <http://www.ecn.bris.ac.uk/het/mill/auto;>

<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/mill/auto;> See also:

<http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/m/milljs.htm>; <http://www.utilitarianism.com/jsmill.htm>

On Liberty: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/jsmill-lib.html>

Utilitarianism: <http://www.utilitarianism.com/jsmill.htm> (bottom of page)

G.W. F. Hegel (1770-1831)

Biography : <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/>

The Phenomenology of the Spirit/Mind:

<http://www.class.uidaho.edu/mickelsen/ToC/Hegel%20Phen%20ToC.htm> see also:

<http://www.gwfhegel.org/PhenText/Hegel00.htm>

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Biography: <http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/marx.html>; see also

<http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/marx.htm>;

The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844:

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/preface.htm>

The Communist Manifesto: <http://www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/classics/manifesto.html>

Das Capital: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Das_Kapital

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

Biography: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nietzsche/> ; see also

<http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/niet.htm>

The Use and Abuse of History: <http://www.mala.bc.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/history.htm>

Thus Spake Zarathustra: <http://eserver.org/philosophy/nietzsche-zarathustra.txt>

Ecce Homo (excerpts):

http://www.publicappeal.org/library/nietzsche/Nietzsche_ecce_homo/

Please report any broken or dead links to: joe@joeadams.net

Study Guide for PS 4453 – Spring Semester 2005

Concepts & Other Items of Interest:

Lakatos' criteria vs. incommensurability
Occam's Razor
logical positivism
narrative conception of human life
philosophical anthropology
zoon politikon
ethos, pathos, logos
arête
phronēsis
hubris
sophrosune
doxa, techne, episteme
theoria (nous)
epagōge
eudaimonia
pleonexia (Mills vs. Nietzsche's translation)
telos
schadenfreude vs. misericordia
pleasure vs. happiness
temperance vs. incontinence
Fact/Value Dichotomy
post hoc ergo propter hoc
natural law vs. positive law
human rights vs. right by nature
virtú vs. fortuna
states of nature (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau)
tacit consent
vox populi vox dei
deductive/inductive reasoning
moralität vs. sittlichkeit
the Invisible Hand
'*aufleben*' vs. leap in being
Gnosticism
teleological vs. deontological perspectives
categorical imperative
distributive justice
dialectic materialism
The Difference Principle
Fishkin's Trilemma
libido dominandi
Gödel's Theorem
The Platonic Quest/Dominant End
the view from nowhere
deconstruction
the will to power & *ubermensch*
Fascism vs. Patriotism
anomie
nihilism
theory of emotivism
charismatic leadership/loss of meaning
eschatology
Frankfurt School

Historical Events

Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE)
[Fall of the Roman Empire](#) (410-?)
[Rise of Islam](#) (622-1492)
[The Crusades](#) (1095-1270)
[The Black Death](#) (1330s-1530s)
[The Renaissance](#) (circa 1400-1600)
[European Witch Hunts](#) (1437 – 1664)
[The Reformation](#) (circa 1500-1650)
[Thirty Years War](#) (1618-1648)
[The English Civil War](#) (1639-1651)
[The Glorious Revolution](#) (1688)
[The Enlightenment/Age of Reason](#) (1750- ?)
[The French Revolution](#) (1789)
[The Revolutions of 1848](#)
[The Franco-Prussian War](#) (1870-71)
[The Paris Commune](#) (1871)

Other Notable Theorists/Philosophers:

[Dante Alighieri](#) (1265-1321)
[Søren Kierkegaard](#) (1813-1855)
[Georges Sorel](#) (1847-1922)
[Vilfredo Pareto](#) (1848 – 1923)
[Friedrich Ludwig Gottlob Frege](#) (1848-1925)
[Alfred North Whitehead](#) (1861-1947)
[Max Weber](#) (1864-1920)
[Bertrand Arthur William Russell](#) (1872-1970)
[Ludwig Edler von Mises](#) (1881-1973)
[Franz Kafka](#) (1883-1924)
[Joseph A. Schumpeter](#) (1883-1950)
[Ludwig Wittgenstein](#) (1889-1951)
[Michael Polanyi](#) (1891-1976)
[Friedrich A. Hayek](#) (1899-1992)
[Werner Heisenberg](#) (1901-1976)
[Eric Voegelin](#) (1901-1985)
[Michael Oakeshott](#) (1901-1991)
[Karl Popper](#) (1902-1994)
[Jean Paul Sartre](#) (1905-1980)
[Kurt Gödel](#) (1906-1978)
[A.J. Ayer](#) (1910-1989)
[Thomas Kuhn](#) (1922-1996)
[Michael Foucault](#) (1926-1984)
[John Rawls](#) (1921-2003)
[Alasdair MacIntyre](#) (1929 -)
[Allan Bloom](#) (1930-1992)
[Jean Bethke Elshtain](#) (1941-)
[James S. Fishkin](#) (c. 1948-)

Special Notes

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