INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
Pols3 – Summer 2019
San José State University

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: ONLINE

LECTURE LOCATION: ONLINE

COURSE WEBSITE: CANVAS

OFFICE HOURS: T/TR 12:00PM-1:30PM AND BY APPOINTMENT.

OFFICE LOCATION: CLARK HALL 455

TELEPHONE: (408) 924-5563

EMAIL: lawrence.quill@sjsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will focus on four broad categories of political thought. We begin with the relationship between
individual citizens and the societies in which they live. Is there a fundamental conflict between being a good
person and being a good citizen? Then we will examine political power. How should we deal with the darker
side of politics – the violence and coercion that lies behind the state? Then we will turn to the subject of justice
and equality. Would we really want societies that were perfectly equal? Finally, we will consider revolution and
change in political life. How have reformers sought to justify greater equality in the human condition, especially for
groups that have been deprived of equal social and political power?

PREREQUISITES
Students should be aware that this is a reading and writing intensive course. All students need some
background in the critical reading of original texts. Political Science 3 offers an opportunity to develop the
skills required in reading original sources. It is the suggested prerequisite for other theory courses offered in
the department.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates/The Last Days of Socrates
Machiavelli, The Prince
Etienne de la Boétie, Discourse on Voluntary Servitude (PDF provided)
More, Utopia
Rousseau, Basic Political Writings
Marx, The Communist Manifesto
Mill, On Liberty

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES
This course is a required “core” course for Political Science majors. For minors, this course may be counted
towards the 6 units of lower division courses required for the minor; Majors may count this course both for
their major and for the GE Core. For General Education, this course satisfies the C2 “Letters” requirement of the GE core. This course is designed both for political science students and those from other majors.

**Requirements and Grading**

Essay (30%)
Midterm (15%) Final (15%)
Quizzes (40%)

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>NP or F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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**Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

CLO 1: Present in writing theoretically/historically informed opinions concerning the applicability of different theoretical systems to selected public policy areas

CLO 2: Present in writing some account of the way political systems and procedures employ the application of competing theoretical approaches in matters of public policy and national/international affairs

CLO 3: Recognize some widely employed theoretical principles within the political history of the United States and beyond, across the political culture more broadly, understanding their logic and their scope of application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLO</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLO 1,2,3</td>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>See Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLO 3</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>See Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLO 3</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>See Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLO 3</td>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>See Canvas</td>
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Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of four-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Because this is a 3-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one.

For this class, students will complete two in-class examinations, and two full-length research essays, which require detailed review of the primary source material and the application of at least two outside scholarly sources relevant to the research topic.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO1: Breadth
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO2: Application
Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: Disciplinary methods
Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO4: Communication Skills
Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO5: Citizenship
Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT
Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student
Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act**
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

**Classroom Behavior: Student Rights & Responsibilities**
See http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm about Academic Senate Policy S90-5

**Plagiarism**
See http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct (Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Dev)

**Departmental Writing Policy**
Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm.

For assistance, please visit the SJSU Writing Center staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. It is your responsibility to arrange a time to meet with the instructors. Consult with your professor in advance to determine whether you need assistance with your writing.

Arguably the best way to improve your own writing is to read quality material on a regular basis. To that end, students are encouraged to read articles from scholarly sources but also newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, The New York Times, and The Economist. These publications also contain articles of direct relevance to their political science classes.

**Questions?**
Finally, if you get stuck, feel overwhelmed, or just want to clarify something from the reading or lectures, ask me. I am here to help.