

MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
Pols 160B – Spring 2012
Professor Lawrence Quill
San Jose State University

LECTURES HELD:
Tu/Th 10:30-11:45am
Clark 303

OFFICE HOURS:
Tu/Th 1:30-3pm
Clark Hall, 402E
(408) 924-5563
lawrence.quill@sjsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to reawaken many of the important debates which shaped our political heritage. The era beginning with Hobbes and ending with the French Revolution left a deep and lasting impression on our perceptions of the political environment. This period is usually considered the key period in the development of Western political theory. In this course, we will examine war, empire, virtue, liberty, rights, contract theory, democracy, populism, realism, and revolution, among other concepts.

PREREQUISITES

This course is not designed exclusively for political science students. Students from many other majors have proven that they can do as well in this course as Political Science majors. All students, however, need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Students should be aware that this is a reading (and writing) intensive course. Political Science 3 is the suggested prerequisite, but philosophy, literature, and history courses frequently can provide sufficient practice in reading original sources.

REQUIRED TEXT

Hobbes, Leviathan, Penguin.
Locke, Second Treatise on Government, Hackett.
Mandeville, Fable of the Bees, Hackett.
Rousseau, Basic Political Writings, Hackett.
Paine, Rights of Man. Penguin
Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman. Penguin.

Students are required to check the website each week for specific reading assignments and additional handouts.

WEBSITE

<http://www.lawrencequill.com/Modern> (case sensitive!)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The B.A. in Political Science requires majors to take a minimum of one upper division course in political thought. This course fulfills that requirement, as well as counting towards the normal total of upper division courses.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1st Essay (30%) 2nd Essay (30%)
Midterm (15%) Final (15%)
Class Participation (10%)

Students are required to check the website every week for instructions regarding essays and exams. Missed or late assignments receive an automatic F.

CALENDAR

Tuesday		Thursday	
		1/26	Introduction
1/31	Hobbes	2/2	Hobbes
2/7	Hobbes	2/9	Hobbes
2/14	Hobbes	2/16	Locke
2/21	Locke	2/23	Locke
2/28	Locke	3/1	Locke
3/6	Mandeville	3/8	Mandeville
3/13	Mandeville	3/15	Mandeville/Swift
3/20	Revision	3/22	Midterm
3/27	Spring Break	3/29	Spring Break
4/3	Rousseau/Smith	4/5	Rousseau
4/10	Rousseau	4/12	Rousseau
4/17	Paine	4/19	Paine
4/24	Paine	4/26	Paine
5/1	Wollstonecraft	5/3	Wollstonecraft
5/8	Wollstonecraft	5/10	Wollstonecraft
5/15	Revision		Final TBA

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.