

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY  
Pols 160c – Fall 2011  
Professor Lawrence Quill  
San Jose State University

LECTURES HELD:  
Tu/Th 12:00pm-1:15pm  
Clark Hall 303

OFFICE HOURS:  
Tu/Th 10:30-11:45

Clark Hall, 402E  
(408) 924 5563  
[lawrence.quill@sjsu.edu](mailto:lawrence.quill@sjsu.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines some of the prominent thinkers in the history of political thought, from Immanuel Kant to John Rawls.

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 TEXT

*Kant, Political Writings*  
*Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality*  
*Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents*  
*Marcuse, Essay on Liberation*  
*Weber, Politics as a Vocation, Bureaucracy (website)*  
*Libertarianism, selections from Michael Sandel's Justice (website)*  
*Rawls, Theory of Justice (website)*  
(Available from the Spartan Bookstore)

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

WEBSITE

<http://web.me.com/lrq/contemporary>

(case sensitive!) login: spartans password: spartans

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.

This course is designed for political science students. However, students from many other majors have proven that they can do as well in this course as the Political Science majors. All students, however, need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Political Science 3 is the suggested prerequisite, but philosophy, literature, and history courses frequently can provide sufficient practice in reading original sources.

## REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Essays (50%) Midterm (20%)  
Final (20%) 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.

Oral participation will not be directly graded. Students who regularly attend and do not participate will be treated neutrally when it comes to the oral participation bonus. Students who regularly and constructively participate in class will receive a bonus to their final course GPA of up to .33 (1/3 of a grade.) This is often crucial, for example, in moving from a B+ to an A-, or an A- to an A in the course. Students who exhibit poor collegiality may have a deduction to their grade of up to one full letter grade or more, in extreme cases and after warnings from the Professor.

CALENDAR

Tuesday		Thursday	
		8/25	Introduction
8/30	Kant	9/1	Kant
9/6	Kant	9/8	Kant
9/13	Nietzsche	9/15	Nietzsche
9/20	Nietzsche	9/22	Nietzsche
9/27	Weber	9/29	Weber
10/4	Weber	10/6	Weber
10/11	Freud	10/13	Freud
10/18	Freud	10/20	Freud
10/25	Revision	10/27	Midterm
11/1	Marcuse	11/3	Marcuse
11/8	Marcuse	11/10	Marcuse
11/15	Libertarianism	11/17	Libertarianism
11/22	Libertarianism	11/24	Libertarianism
11/29	Rawls	12/1	Rawls
12/6	Rawls	12/8	Rawls
		12/15	Final Exam. 9:45-12:00.

#### 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](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](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](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, please ask. I am here to help.