

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Political Science 3: Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2017

Instructor:	Sara Benson
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Office Hours:	Monday/Wednesday 12:00 – 1:15
Class Days/Time:	Monday/Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15
Classroom:	Clark 303

Course Description

This course introduces students to significant classical and modern texts in political theory. It investigates the subjects of power, rights, and democracy by exposing students to a range of thinkers who examine the meaning of political life and political belonging. The first part of the course moves from an account of the emergence of liberal democratic political theory to an exploration of critiques of liberalism. What is the meaning of liberal equality and how have challenges to its principles of individualism and property recast societal debates about the meaning of democracy? Political theory has produced a range of governing modes that organize “the people” and “the state” according to various strategies. By exploring these modes through the lens of race, class, gender and nation, we will work collectively to ask a set of critical questions about the meaning of freedom and the relationship between states and citizens in contemporary political theory.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Student success in this course is dependent on an active engagement with the reading materials. The primary goal of the course is to introduce students to the major debates within classical and modern political theory, and to the challenges and critiques of critical theory and post-structuralism. This course is a reading-intensive course that focuses on primary texts and requires students to spend time learning and describing the internal coherence of an argument. It also requires that students craft analytical responses to primary and secondary sources in political theory. These writing

assignments will allow students to deepen their initial readings and to synthesize the arguments of the authors into conversations. Exams and response papers will ask students to define the relationships between these thinkers and to develop new ideas and new modes of inquiry. Students will write a minimum of 1500 words.

SLO1: Letters courses will enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.

SLO2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.

SLO3: Letters courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness.

While this course is required for Political Science majors, it can also be taken as a General Education course for those not in the major. For those taking the course as a GE, it satisfies the C2 “Letters” requirement.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks (available at the SJSU bookstore)

Required:

Mitchell Cohen and Nicole Fermon, *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*
CLOTH 0691036888 PAPER 9780691036892 (either is fine)

Optional/Recommended:

Herbert Marcuse, *Counterrevolution and Revolt* (ISBN 0807015334)
Chela Sandoval, *Methodology of the Oppressed* (ISBN 9780816627370)

Classroom Protocol

Students should attend all class meetings and participate in class exercises, assignments and discussions. During class time, we work collectively to read widely in the field of political theory. Your cell phone should not ring. You should not text under the desk. You do not need your computer. Please bring your course materials, a notebook, and a pen to class. If you must enter late, please be prepared to enter quietly and without disruption. Please be respectful of your colleagues during class discussions and exams.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignment One: Midterm Exam One	30% of course grade
Assignment Two: Midterm Exam Two	30% of course grade
Assignment Three: Final Exam	40% of course grade

Midterm One

For this in-class exam, students will be asked to identify the author and text of ten passages from the readings. After identifying the author and title of the work, students should unpack the quote by explaining it in their own words and making connections to the larger themes of the class.

Midterm Two

This take-home exam requires that students answer three critical synthesis questions from a list of four. No outside materials should be referenced. In order to receive a grade, students will, in addition to submitting a paper copy, upload a copy to Canvas. *Each answer should offer a two-page analysis* of the question, rather than a descriptive summary of course readings or lecture notes.

Final Exam

Students will be asked to unpack, explain, and reference a series of ten quotations from the readings. The exam is cumulative and comprehensive.

Grading Information and Policies

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

No late papers will be accepted.

No extra credit is available.

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C

70-72	C-
63-69	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

Please review the information about university policies on plagiarism contained above, which may result in a failing grade. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Classroom Protocol

Students should attend all class meetings and participate in class exercises, assignments and discussions. Your cell phone is not needed for this writing class. Please come to class with your course materials, your journal or notebook, and a pen or pencil. Students should not be late. If you absolutely must enter late, be prepared to enter quietly and without disruption. Please be respectful of your colleagues in class discussions and during peer review exercises.

Political Science Departmental Writing Policy and SJSU Writing Center

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 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 with writing, please see me or visit the SJSU Writing Center located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Monday, January 30	Introductions
1	Wednesday, February 1	<u>Power and Political Theory</u> Michel Foucault, selection from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (PRPT or PDF)
2	Monday, February 6	<u>Power and Organization</u> Michel Foucault, selection from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (PRPT or PDF)
2	Wednesday, February 8	<u>Republicanism</u> Machiavelli, selections from <i>The Prince</i> (PRPT 167-187)
3	Monday, February 13	<u>Social Contract Theory</u> Hobbes, selection from <i>Leviathan</i> (PRPT 205-242) Locke, “Second Treatise of Government” (PRPT 243-279)
3	Wednesday, February 15	<u>Liberalism, Consent, Governance</u> Locke, “Second Treatise of Government” (PRPT 243-279) (cont’d) Rousseau, “On the Social Contract” (PRPT 280-293)
4	Monday, February 20	<u>Theories of Revolution</u> “Declaration of the Rights of Man” (PRPT 347-348) “The Federalist Papers” (PRPT 335-346)
4	Wednesday, February 22	<u>Theories of Democracy</u> Tocqueville, selections from <i>Democracy in America</i> (PRPT 398-424)
5	Monday, February 27	<u>Theories of Equality and the State</u> Bentham, “Principles of Morals and Legislation” (PRPT 371-374) Mill, selections from <i>Utilitarianism</i> (available at http://www.utilitarianism.com/mill1.htm).
5	Wednesday, March 1	Midterm Review Session
6	Monday, March 6	Midterm Exam

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Wednesday, March 8	<u>Hegel & the Dialectic Part I</u> Hegel, selection from <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (Lordship & Bondage) http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/ph/phba.htm
7	Monday, March 13	<u>Hegel & the Dialectic Part II</u> Hegel, selection from <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (Lordship & Bondage) http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/ph/phba.htm
7	Wednesday, March 15	No class. Instructor at Conference.
8	Monday, March 20	<u>Marx & Theories of Political Economy I</u> Karl Marx, selected writings (PRPT 435-466)
8	Wednesday, March 22	<u>Marx & Theories of Political Economy II</u> Karl Marx, selected writings (PRPT 435-466)
9	Monday, March 27	No Class. Spring Break.
9	Wednesday, March 29	No Class. Spring Break.
10	Monday, April 3	Film Screening: <i>Marx and Marxism</i> (narrated by Stuart Hall)
10	Wednesday, April 5	<u>Marxism and Class Consciousness</u> Georg Lukacs, "The Phenomenon of Reification" (read pages 1-19) https://www.marxists.org/archive/lukacs/works/history/hcc05.htm
11	Monday, April 10	<u>Foundations in Critical Race Theory</u> Cheryl Harris, "Whiteness as Property"
11	Wednesday, April 12	<u>Foundations in Critical Theory</u> Herbert Marcuse, <i>Counterrevolution and Revolt</i>
12	Monday, April 17	<u>Theory & Cultural Studies</u> Film Screening: <i>The Crowd</i> (98 minutes)
12	Wednesday, April 19	Film Screening: <i>The Crowd</i> Take-Home Midterm Exam Distributed
13	Monday, April 24	Film Follow-Up & Midterm Discussion
13	Wednesday, April 26	Midterm Exam Due (at <u>beginning</u> of class)
14	Monday, May 1	<u>Foundations in Social Movement Theory I</u> Chela Sandoval, <i>Methodology of the Oppressed</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	Wednesday, May 3	<u>Foundations in Social Movement Theory II</u> Chela Sandoval, <i>Methodology of the Oppressed</i>
15	Monday, May 8	Piven and Cloward, selection from <i>Poor People's Movements</i> (PDF)
15	Wednesday, May 10	Michel Foucault, selection from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (PRPT)
16	Monday, May 15	Course Closing and Exam Review

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 24, 12:15 –2:30 pm