

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY  
Pols3 (Section 80) – Spring 2019  
San José State University

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: 7:30AM-8:45AM

LECTURE LOCATION: CANVAS

COURSE WEBSITE: CANVAS

OFFICE HOURS: TR 7:00AM-7:30AM, 12:00-12:30PM (ZOOM, 12:30PM TO 1:30PM), AND BY APPOINTMENT.

OFFICE LOCATION: CLARK HALL 455

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#### 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 (PDFS PROVIDED)

Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates/The Last Days of Socrates  
Machiavelli, The Prince  
Etienne de la Boétie, Discourse on Voluntary Servitude  
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%) Quizzes (40%)  
Midterm and Final (30%)

**Grading Scale**

A PLUS	97 to 100
A	93 to 96
A MINUS	90 to 93
B PLUS	86 to 89
B	83 to 85
B MINUS	80 to 82
C PLUS	77 to 79
C	73 to 76
C MINUS	70 to 72
D PLUS	66 to 69
D	63 to 65
D MINUS	60 to 62
NP or F	59 or less

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)**

BY THE END OF THE COURSE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

CLO1: PRESENT IN WRITING THEORETICALLY/HISTORICALLY INFORMED OPINIONS CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF DIFFERENT THEORETICAL SYSTEMS TO SELECTED PUBLIC POLICY AREAS

CLO2: 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

CLO3: 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

CLO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
CLO 1,2,3	ESSAY	30	SEE CANVAS
CLO 3	MIDTERM	20	SEE CANVAS
CLO3	FINAL EXAM	10	SEE CANVAS
CLO 3	QUIZZES	40	SEE CANVAS

## CALENDAR

Date	Subject	
1/24	Introduction	
1/29	Socrates	<i>Apology</i>
1/31	Socrates	<i>Apology</i>
2/5	Socrates	<i>Crito</i>
2/7	Socrates	<i>Crito</i>
2/12	More	Utopia – Book One
2/14	More	Utopia – Book One
2/19	More	Utopia – Book Two
2/21	More	Utopia – Book Two
2/26	Machiavelli	The Prince – Chapters 1-9
2/28	Machiavelli	The Prince – Chapters 1-9
3/5	Machiavelli	The Prince – Chapters 10-26
3/7	Machiavelli	The Prince – Chapters 10-26
3/12	Boétie	Section 1
3/14	Boétie	Section 2, 3
3/19	Boétie	Section 3/ Writing Workshop/Revision
3/21	Exam	
3/26	Rousseau	Discourse on the Origins of Inequality Part 1
3/28	Rousseau	Discourse on the Origins of Inequality Part 1
4/2	Spring Break	
4/4	Spring Break	
4/9	Rousseau	Discourse on the Origins of Inequality Part 2
4/11	Rousseau	Discourse on the Origins of Inequality Part 2
4/16	Marx	Communist Manifesto
4/18	Marx	Communist Manifesto
4/23	Marx	Communist Manifesto
4/25	Marx	Communist Manifesto
4/30	Mill	On Liberty Introduction and Chapter 1
5/2	Mill	On Liberty Chapters 2
5/7	Mill	On Liberty Chapter 3, 4
5/9	Mill	On Liberty Chapter 5
TBA	Final Exam	

## Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) 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.

## Assignments

**Examinations (30%)** You are required to take two exams that will test readings and lectures. The Midterm will test knowledge from the first half of the semester. The final exam will test knowledge from the midterm to the end of the semester.

**Essay (30%)** The essay will be 1000 words in length. Prior to beginning the essay students develop an outline, thesis, and find relevant secondary source materials.

**Quizzes (40%)** There are weekly quizzes based on the lectures and reading that test student knowledge.

## 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 and Disciplinary Methods

Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

### PSPLO3: 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.

### PSPLO4: 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](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, ask me. I am here to help.