

COURSE OUTLINE

PHI/POL-220

Philosophy of Politics

Course Number: PHI 220 or POL 220 Course Title: Philosophy of Politics / Modern Political Theory

Required Materials:

Text: Classics of Modern Political Theory, ed. by Steven M. Cahn (NY: Oxford University Press, 1997)

Catalog Description:

An introduction to modern political theory starting with Machiavelli and concluding with Mill. Highlights include readings from Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, The Federalist Papers, Burke, Bentham, Hegel, and Marx and Engels. Critical analysis and selected issues in modern political theory are stressed. Students may opt to take this course either as a political science or philosophy elective. See course description number under each area.

Course Coordinator: Saul Goldwasser

I. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE (ORIGINAL READINGS)

(Weekly Class Schedule by Topic)

INTRODUCTION - Lecture on Modern Political Theory: Criteria for Evaluation and Application to Modern Issues

1. Machiavelli
2. Thomas Hobbes
3. Baruch Spinoza
4. John Locke
5. Montesquieu
6. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
7. David Hume

5-8 Page Joint Researched Position Paper Due

8. Adam Smith
9. Immanuel Kant
10. The Declaration of Independence The Constitution of the US the Federalist Papers
11. Edmund Burke and Alexis De Tocqueville
12. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
13. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

14. Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

A. Defining Political Theory (aka Political Philosophy and Political Thought)

1. History
2. Significance - The Proper Purposes of Government

B. Introduce Criteria for Evaluation of Political Theories - Analysis and Assessment

1. Desirable Political Arrangements Involving Analysis of Moral Values
2. Possible Political Social Contractual Arrangements
3. Analysis and Assessment of Likely or Feasible Political Arrangements

C. Analysis and Normative Assessment of Criteria for Each Political Theory on:

1. Authority
2. Liberty
3. Equality
4. Happiness (Utility)
5. Justice

D. Recognition of Teleological (Consequentialist) vs. Deontological (Non-Consequentialist) Ethical Theories and Their Relation to Political Theory

1. Study of Issues in the Relation of the State to the Individual
2. Study of Issues Between Individual Rights and the Greatest Good
3. Study of Issues Between the Public vs. the Private Sector

E. Delineate the Issues Under the Heading, Religion vs. Politics in Selected Areas:

1. Pre-Renaissance – Augustine's The City of God
2. Spinoza's Theologico-Political Treatise
3. Locke's Doctrine of Natural Rights
4. Atheistic Marxist Socialism
5. The Separation of Church and State

F. Discuss and Analyze and Contrast the Following Political Positions:

1. The Communitarians
 - a. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - b. Marx and Engels

- c. Recent Theorists: Michael Sandel and Michael Walzer
2. The Liberals
 - a. Locke
 - b. Hobbes
 - c. Mill
 - d. Smith
 - e. Recent Theorists: Isaiah Berlin, Ronald Dworkin and John Rawls
 3. The Conservatives
 - a. Edmund Burke
 - b. Recent Theorists: Russell Kirk, Michael Oakeshote and Irving Kristol
 4. The Socialist
 - a. Marx, Engels and Lenin
 - b. Recent Theorists: Ted Grant and Alan Woods
 5. The Utilitarians
 - a. Jeremy Bentham
 - b. John Stuart Mill
 - c. Recent Theorists: J.J.C. Smart and Peter Singer

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- A. Each Student Will Be Able To List The Essential Contributions of Each of the Political Philosophers Studied
- B. List and Describe at Least 6 Important Issues in Modern Political Theory
- C. Relate Each Political Philosopher Studied to Their Underlying Moral Position
- D. Compare and Contrast Social Contract Theories in Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau
- E. Critically Evaluate the Strengths and Weaknesses of Each Position Studied
- F. Construct an Ideal State Indicating the Students Choice of a Political Arrangement
- G. Name and Defend a Political Philosopher That the Student Believes is Most Significant

IV. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

POL 220/PHI 220 will be offered in two formats: beginning as a web course on the college's Virtual Campus and as a standard lecture campus course offered one semester during the following

Academic year.

V. METHOD OF EVALUATION

A. As a web course, each student receives three grades each week, one grade from the students Contribution to the Forum and two grades from critical evaluation to the responses of fellow students.

Also required is a collaborative 5-8 page research paper: Weekly Grades: 75 Research Paper: 25

B. As a lecture course on campus, there will be 4 one hour essay examinations and a 5-10 page Research paper. Examination grades: 80 Research Paper 20