PS 361
CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT (4)

OSU catalog course description, including pre-requisites/ co-requisites:
Major political theorists from the pre-Socratics through the Scholastics. (H)

PREREQS: PS 206.

Course Description:
By the end of the term you will become familiar with the figures of major thinkers of ancient and medieval world and some of the most influential classical works in the western political theory. We will trace the development of the political thought from Ancient Greece and its great philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, through the fall of Roman Empire in the eyes of St. Augustine. We will become familiar with the Medieval viewpoint on politics with the help of St. Thomas Aquinas and Renaissance political thought in Europe as perceived by Niccolo Machiavelli.

Course Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>What is Justice? Is there an Ideal Order of the State?</td>
<td>Plato, Republic Books I, II, III, IV</td>
<td>Quiz # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Classifying Constitutions. Best State and Best Life.</td>
<td>Aristotle, Politics Books IV, V, VI and VII</td>
<td>Paper # 2 (on Aristotle)</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>The Fall of Rome</td>
<td>St. Augustine, The City of God, Books I-V</td>
<td>Quiz # 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Christianity and Politics</td>
<td>St. Augustine, selections</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>VII</td>
<td>On Kings and Tyrants.</td>
<td>St. Thomas Aquinas, On Kingship (selections)</td>
<td>Quiz # 4</td>
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<td>IX</td>
<td>Acquiring States</td>
<td>Niccolo Machiavelli, Prince, Chapters 1-14</td>
<td>Quiz # 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Maintaining States</td>
<td>Niccolo Machiavelli, Prince, Chapters 15-26</td>
<td>Paper # 4 (on Machiavelli)</td>
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This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu   Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu   Tel: 800-667-1465
Learning resources:
There is no required textbooks, course packet etc.
All of the required, primary readings will be available online but if you wish you may purchase the following editions of the primary readings:


Evaluation of student performance:
We will work in two weeks blocks (each two weeks block will be devoted to particular philosopher and his work). Each week, I expect you to fully participate in our class. Full participation means submitting all of the requirements on time (such as papers, quizzes and discussion posts) as well as doing all of the primary and “lecture” readings as schedule. This will help you to organize your work more efficiently. All optional readings, encyclopedia entries, radio podcasts (“if you wish” ones) etc. are not required but are very much advised since they will be of a great help to you when it comes to better understanding of the subject matter as well as to doing best on your papers etc.

In order to successfully finish the class you will need to:

- Write 3 out of 4 proposed Critical Papers 30%
- Participate in our Weekly Discussions 30%
- Take 5 one question quizzes every other week 20%
- Take one midterm exam 10%
- Take one final online test 10%

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT POSSIBILITY IN THIS CLASS.

CRITICAL PAPERS (30%)
Every other week (starting on Week # 2) you will be asked to write a 1000-1200 word count critical essay on the given topics. You are allowed to choose 3 out of 4 proposed papers. I will grade it on the scale of 12-0 where 12 is A+ and 0 is F.

Scale According to Which I will Grade Your Papers:
12 - 10 – excellent work: outstanding comprehension of the subject matter, very well organized, logical arguments, well cited examples and evidence to support claims, sophisticated language, no grammar errors;
9 - 7 – good work: very good comprehension of the subject matter, organized and most arguments are logical, some properly cited examples to support the claims, well chosen language, minor grammar errors;
6 - 4 - average work: some familiarity of the subject matter but important key issues are missing, some gaps in organization and logical argumentation, just few relevant examples to support the claim, general or vague language, grammar errors which detract from the overall quality of the paper;
3 - 1 – poor work: very little familiarity with the subject, confusion with the key concepts, serious gaps in organization and logical argumentation (ex. self- contradictory); generalities, no examples to support the claim, general and stilted language, serious grammar errors;
0 – plagiarism or no familiarity of the subject;

Papers are due on Mondays. Make sure to submit your papers by the due dates. I will not grade them if they are submitted late.
WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS (30%)

Participation in the weekly discussion is very crucial for this online course. Please think of it as normal class discussion (but without the pressure of public speaking 😊). Make sure that every week you post at least two quality* responses to the subject and discuss the subject matter with your fellow students.

Please submit your responses by Wednesday and Friday. Firstly: you need to respond to the given question. Secondly you need to show me that you read what the fellow students have to say by posting a response or comment. Please do not leave your participation for the last minute but show me that you follow what is going on our forums and that you think critically about the issues. Two posts is the minimum, but if you feel like adding more posts to the subject which is of interest to you, you are welcome to do so. Please do not start new forums (this will be my job).

Each post (out of 2 required) will be evaluated weekly on the below scale. The discussion assignment will be worth a total of 48 points.

1 point - Minimal response to the module question. No contribution to discussion.
2 points - Posting responds to the question but does not stimulate further class discussion.
3 points - Posting fully addresses the module question and stimulates at least one substantial follow-up posting. Add new and interesting information.
4 points will be given occasionally to those of you who will be outstanding in the replies and who will participate more

Topics will be given at the beginning of each week. The posts are due on Fridays each week. If you have any questions concerning the class, please post them in the General Q&A Folder.

* Quality posts are those which further the discussion, ask relevant questions, and add information to the discussion. Quality posts are not of the kind: “I agree” or “I think it is wrong”.

QUIZZES (20%)

Every other week (starting on Week # 1) you will be asked to answer one quiz question concerned with the required reading for the week. By writing 300 – 400 word count fully developed response you will be able to gain 4 points each time. Quiz assignment will be worth a total of 20 points.

MIDTERM TEST (10%)

The midterm test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions concerning the course material from weeks I to V.

FINAL TEST (10%)

The final test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions concerning the course material from weeks VI to X.

My final grading scale will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 - 90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89 - 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79 - 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69 - 60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability and Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct:
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the Office of Student Conduct: information and regulations.

Course Evaluation
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions by Ecampus. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.