Professor Christine Kelly  
Department of Political Science  
William Paterson University  
Kelly@wpunj.edu; Raubinger 441; x3430  
POL 212-80 WINTER 09/10 (3 weeks)  

Modern Political Thought

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course seeks to introduce students to some of the classics of modern political theory as well as various intellectual interpretations of the texts. We will explore how the text and the interpretation have shaped “Western” political traditions. In the course, we will be exploring how liberalism and representative democracy are variously conceived and/or opposed by the selected authors. In particular, we will pay attention to philosophical grounding schemes and inquire about their relationship to political realities. We will go beyond textual analysis, and explore the practical/historical reasons these thinkers have had an impact on representative democracies. Secondary commentaries—one conservative, one liberal/left—will be utilized to assist the student in interpreting the text and in gaining access to critical perspectives. Short interpretive essays on the authors will be required and a Foundations Chart, examining key concepts in each theorists, will also be produced. A final exam will conclude the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• This course will enable students to study and research some of the great political thinkers of the modern era.
• The students will have an understanding of the concepts modern political theory and their historical movements.
• The students will be able to compare/contrast core elements within the theories examined.
• An critical understanding of the relationship between political theory and the political movements and institutions of the past will enable students to better grasp and analyze political issues and institutions of the present day.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completing this course students will be able to:

- Effectively express themselves in written and oral form
- Demonstrate the ability to think abstractly and critically.
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and ideas in a coherent
  and meaningful manner
- Show respect for the opinions of others and be open-minded in the exchange of ideas
- Compare and contrast ideas of the several philosophers regarding recurring or common themes in their respective works.

Required Texts:
All of these books can be acquired as used paperbacks through amazon.com’s used booksellers at incredibly reduced rates. Frequently they can be found for as little as 1-4 dollars. BUT THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE ON CAMPUS and are immediately available at reasonable fees.

- Machiavelli, The Prince (Penguin Classic Paperback)
- Hobbes, Leviathan (Penguin Classic Paperback)
- Locke, Second Treatise of Government and An Essay Concerning Toleration (Dover Publication)
- Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” Bb
- Marx, The Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings (Dover)

RECOMMENDED BUT “NO PURCHASE” REQUIRED:
(available in most libraries)

- George Sabine, A History of Political Theory (Holt & Rhinehart, 4th ed) 1993 (out of print)
REQUIREMENTS:

- ONLINE Attendance is critical.
- You must complete all reading and writing assignments by due date.
- Papers must be submitted on time or they will be deducted one full grade for every day late.
- You must be able to “discuss” the material openly and engage the secondary material in a critical manner.
- Late papers and assignments will be penalized. Make-ups will not be administered without a medical note.
- Papers will be scanned through TURNITIN.COM for plagiarism.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Attendance & Participation 25%
2 Interpretive Essays (5pp each) 35%
1 Question Set (Kant & Marx) 10%
Final Exam 30%

ORIENTATION:

December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 class starts</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Use the Calendar!
- Buy Books,
• Read Syllabus CAREFULLY!!
• Start PLAN READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE CAREFULLY and in advance!

WEEK I

Sa December 26th –READ SYLLABUS AND START PLANNING!

Mon Dec 28

Machiavelli, The Prince

T Dec 29

See QUICK NOTES posted on Discussion Board.

Utilize Discussion Board for any questions concerning the material.

For additional help see:

Sabine and Strauss/Cropsey on Machiavelli

W Dec 30

Hobbes, Leviathan (chapters 1-24)

T Dec 31st

Same

Fr JAN 1 HOLIDAY NO CLASS

Sa Jan 2nd

Interpretive Essay topic posted –ASSIGNMENTS

Read “Quick Notes-Hobbes” on Discussion Board

PLUS Start INTERPRETIVE ESSAY!

Utilize Discussion Board for any questions concerning the material

WEEK II

Mon Jan 4th

WRITE INTERPRETIVE ESSAY!

For additional help see Sabine and Strauss/Cropsey on HOBBES
Tu Jan 5th

*Interpretive Essay # 1 Due (no later than midnight)*

*LABEL DOC:* Lastname: Mach/Hobbes

W Jan. 6th

Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*

Read an online version of the “Declaration of Independence”

Thu Jan 7th

Read “Quick Notes-Locke” on Discussion Board

Interpretive Essay # 2 Posted — ASSIGNMENT

Fri Jan. 8th

Same (LOCKE)

Sa Jan 9th


**WEEK III**

Mon Jan 11th

Read “Quick Notes—Rousseau” on Discussion Board

*For additional help see: Sabine and Strauss/Cropsey on ROUSSEAU*

Tu Jan. 12th

INTERPRETIVE ESSAY # 2 DUE (no later than midnight)

DIGITAL DROPBOX — LABEL DOC—— Lastname, Locke_Rousseau

Wed Jan 13th

Mon Jan 12

Kant, “What is Enlightenment”
Marx, Communist Manifesto

QUICK NOTES QUESTIONS POSTED

Th Jan 14th

Read “Quick Notes-Kant”

“Quick Notes-Marx-Discussion Board

QUICK NOTES QUESTIONS DUE

DIGITAL DROPBOX -- LABEL DOC—Lastname, Kant_Marx Questions

For additional help see: Sabine and Strauss/Cropsey on KANT

Fri Jan 15th

FINAL EXAM ONLINE -- NO EXCEPTIONS

TIME 6pm-8pm (or by prior approved arrangement)

When Finished –DIGITAL DROPBOX

LABEL DOC --Lastname, FINAL EXAM