

Political Theory II – Hobbes to Goldman

Samuel R. Galloway

Political Science

Tuesday and Friday: 4.30 – 6.10

Office Hours: 12.30 – 2.00

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1. Course Description:

This semester brings together key thinkers of the social contract tradition – Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Wollstonecraft – as well as their critics – Tocqueville, Marx, Nietzsche, DuBois, and Goldman – in order to understand the enduring theoretical formations of the Western political tradition. Concepts explored will include rights, sovereignty, authority, property, association, exploitation, power, and emancipation.

2. Course Objectives:

Completion of this course will provide an introduction to modern political theory. In so doing, it will equip students with a theoretical and conceptual basis for analyzing the historical and conceptual development of political ideas. It will also provide a survey of thinkers in the Western canon. Completion will also grant a sustained reflection on enduring political concepts. Finally, skills such as critical reading, analytical writing, and collaborative discussion will be reinforced and expanded.

3. Required Texts:

All required readings and materials are available on Moodle.

Optional Resources:

“Democracy Now!” www.DemocracyNow.Org. Weekday 8am live broadcast, archived by 9am.

4. Grading:

Attendance & Class Participation: 25%.	First Paper: 20% (see below for details)
Perusall: 25% (see below for details).	Final Paper: 30% (see below for details).

5. Attendance and Class Participation:

This class will be a discussion-driven exploration of our topics of study. Your attendance and participation is essential to the success of this experiment in learning. Attendance

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means being present with your camera on, in a quiet, well-lit room, ready to verbally communicate. If, for some reason, you are unable to be present with your camera on, ready to verbally communicate, you must contact me in advance of class to explain why. If you are not able to be present with your camera on, ready to verbally communicate, this class may not be right for you. Because of the importance of attendance, absences will be excused only in documented cases of illness, personal emergency, or religious observance. I expect *prior notification* of your absence (via email), and reserve the right to request documentation. After the second unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence will result in a deduction of 1/3 grade point of your participation grade (A+ => A, A =>A-). Participation means verbal contributions to class discussion that refers us to a passage in the text, a concept or idea that is under discussion, and/or a question regarding the aforementioned. Zoom chat is not a place to conduct class discussion. You are expected to participate every class.

6. Perusall:

This class is a reading-intensive course where you are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the materials assigned for that class. Perusall is a tool that grades your reading and annotation of the assigned texts. You are graded on metrics that include length of time in the document, how many pages of the assigned text you read, how many annotations (underlines, comments) you make on the text, and whether or not you respond to the annotations of your peers. You are allowed to miss three (3) of the assigned readings before it negatively impacts your grade. For every missed reading after the three (3) excused missed readings, your grade will be deducted one 1/3 of a grade (A+ => A, A =>A-) from the Perusall percentage of your overall grade.

7 (a). First Paper—Critical Reconstruction of an Argument:

The first written assignment will be 750 – 1000 words in length (approximately 3-4 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, **margins justified** pages). Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay is to reconstruct an argument encountered in the readings on ideology and to conclude with a critical evaluation of the argument thus reconstructed. The format of this essay is 75% reconstruction, 25% critical evaluation. To explain the argument here means to reconstruct the argument by clearly stating in your own words its explicit and implicit premises and conclusions. To evaluate the argument means to assess the validity of its premises as well as whether the conclusions follow from its premises. Specific paper prompts will be released in advance.

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7 (b). Final Paper—Critical Construction of an Original Argument:

The objective of the final paper assignment is to provide students with the opportunity to conduct original research about an event of political protest of their choosing using the resources provided by the course. The final written assignment will 1750 – 2250 words in length (approximately 7 – 9 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and **margins justified** pages. Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay is to critically construct an original argument informed by engagement with readings in the class. Specific paper prompts will be released in advance.

8. Intellectual Honesty/Plagiarism:

Simply: *do not* plagiarize. If there are any questions whatsoever about the proper way to cite a source, please consult me, or refer to Charles Lipson's *How to Do Honest Work in College* (2004). Plagiarism will lead to automatic failure of the course and will be referred to the College administration for additional sanction.

9. Unwavering Expectations for Respectful Discourse and Conduct:

Under no circumstances will disrespectful discourse or conduct be welcome in our classroom. We will treat one another with respect, patience, and understanding. Learning inherently involves the risk of allowing knowledge to change your life, and this requires courage. We will all exercise an unwavering commitment to encouraging one another in this process.

10. Accessibility Statement:

The Office of Disability Resources collaborates directly with students who identify documented disabilities to create accommodation plans, including testing accommodations, in order for students to access course content and validly demonstrate learning. For those students who may require accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources as soon as possible, 914-251-6035, ODR@purchase.edu (Student Services Building, #316A), www.purchase.edu/odr.

11. Schedule:

Week One

Tuesday: Feb 2: Introductions: Reflections on the *Leviathan* Frontispiece: the Body Politic.

Friday: Feb 5: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction (pages 3 – 5), Chapters 13 – 16 (74 – 105).

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Week Two

Tuesday: Feb 9: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 17 – 19 (Pages 106 – 127)

- <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1i1e6h>

Friday: Feb 12: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 20 – 24 (pages 127 – 164)

Week Three

Tuesday, Feb 16: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 25 – 28 (pages 165 – 209)

Friday, Feb 19: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 29 – 31 (pages 210 – 244)

Week Four

Tuesday, Feb 23: Locke, *2nd Treatise*, Chapters 1 – 5 (pages 267 – 302)

Friday, Feb 26: Locke, *2nd Treatise*, Chapters 6 – 9 (pages 303 – 353).

Week Five

Tuesday, Mar 2: Locke, *2nd Treatise*, Chapters 10 – 15 (pages 354 – 384)

Aylon Cohen, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago Guest Lecture

Friday, Mar 5: Locke, *2nd Treatise*, Chapters 16 – 19 (pages 384 – 428).

Week Six

Tuesday, Mar 9: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I (all).

Friday, Mar 12: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II (pages 41 – 81).

Week Seven

Tuesday, Mar 16: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book III (81-120).

Friday, Mar 19: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book IV (121-152).

Week Eight

Tuesday, Mar 23: **No class – Watch Optional Recorded Mini-Lecture:**

Read: Wollstonecraft, Mary. *The Vindication of the Rights of Women*, Ch. 1 – 3, 9.

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Friday, Mar 26: de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*: Vol. I, Pt. 1: Ch. 2-4; Pt. 2: Ch. 1; 3-4.

Week Nine

Tuesday, Mar 30: de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. I. Pt. 2: Ch. 7; Vol. II. Pt. IV: Ch. 1-7.

Friday, Apr 2: de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. II. Pt. 1: Preface-Ch. 2; Ch. 8-9; Pt. 2: Ch. 1-8.

Week Ten

Tuesday, Apr 6: **No class: Watch Mandatory Recorded Lecture:**

Read: Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, Pt. 3, Section 2: “Civil Society” (pp. 220-273).

Friday, Apr 9: Marx, *Marx-Engels Reader 2nd Edition* pp. *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* (pp. 70-81; 93-105).

Week Eleven

Tuesday, Apr 13: Marx and Engels, *Marx-Engels Reader 2nd Edition: Capital, Vol. 1* (pp. 295-336; 344-361);

Optional: *Crisis Theory*, pp. 443-465.

Friday, Apr 16: Marx and Engels, *Marx-Engels Reader 2nd Edition: Manifesto of the Communist Party* (pp. 469 – 500).

Week Twelve

Tuesday, Apr 20: Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1st Essay)

Friday, Apr 23: Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, (2nd Essay)

Agatha Slupek, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago, Guest Lecture

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, Apr 27: Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (3rd Essay)

Friday, Apr 30: Nietzsche, *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, “On Reading and Writing,” pp.152 – 154. (Catch-up.)

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Week Fourteen

Tuesday, May 4, Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folks* Ch. I – IV (pp. 40 – 90).

Friday, May 7 Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folks* Ch. V – IX (pp. 91-164)

Larry Svabek, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago, Guest Lecture

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, May 11: Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folks* Ch. X – After-Thought (pp. 165 - 215)

Friday, May 14: Goldman, Emma. *Anarchism and Other Essays*, selections.