POL S 211 A2: Introduction to Political Theory
Professor C. Kellogg
M-W-F: T -1-93, 10:00 - 10:50
Office hours: Wednesdays - 2:00-3:00, or by appointment
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COURSE PREREQUISITES: POLS 101
Policy about course outlines, grading and related matters can be found in Section 23.4(2)
of the University Calendar.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This half year course is designed to be an introduction to the field of Western political
philosophy. We will select key readings from some of the important thinkers of the
tradition of political theory.

FORMAT
Mondays and Wednesdays are lectures, and Fridays you will break into smaller tutorial
groups.

REQUIRED READINGS

Plato, The Republic (Oxford)
Machiavelli The Prince (Hackett)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau Discourse on the Origins of Inequality
John Locke, Second Treatise of Government (Hackett)
Karl Marx Basic Political Writings (Hackett)

All readings should be available at the bookstore. Please let me know if there's a
problem.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to be partnered with POL S 212. We will develop the capacity to
build arguments, to write argumentative essays, and to think 'critically' which is to say,
to look behind your automatic assumptions and interrogate their premises.

REQUIREDS AND EVALUATION

The course requirements are outlined below. Students should note that in all but
exceptional situations, all components of the course must be completed to receive a
passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar. Tests and assignments will be assigned a letter grade. I will not 'curve' or adjust final grades according to any preset formula. Evaluation of the following course requirements will determine students' grades:

1. **Working Papers**
   There are three short working papers, worth 20% each, due over the course of the term. In these short papers (500 words) you will critically respond to a central argument of a key political theorist. While these are not research papers, they are formal writing assignments. This means that they must be written in paragraph format with a **thesis statement** and with **direct reference** to the primary text. (Longer instructions/handout available on e-class)

   1. Begin by succinctly framing a core question that comes out of the readings. Here you're arguing for or against an important claim, or making a useful conceptual distinction, or posing a careful and generative question.
   2. Come up with an interesting and potentially persuasive response to that claim, showing your reader that you have thought about your question from more than one point of view.
   3. Draw a conclusion, based on the question, claim and counter-claim.

   N.B. Keep your paper succinct, precisely focused, and argumentative. Your working papers should indicate the word count.

2. **Final Exam**- 30%

3. **Participation** - 10%

**LATE PENALTIES, PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

*Late assignments:* It is your responsibility to inform me as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reasons for being late do not also explain this lack of communication, then you should be prepared to be penalized 5% per day.

*Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty:* The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at
www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. An important excerpt from the Code of Student Behaviour is appended at the end of this syllabus. Additional information and resources are available through the UofA’s Truth in Education project: http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT & DISABILITY SERVICES:

Students with disabilities or special needs that might interfere with their performance should contact me at the beginning of the course with the appropriate documentation. Every effort will be made to accommodate such students, but in all cases prior arrangements must be made to ensure that any special needs can be met in a timely fashion and in such a way that the rest of the class is not put at an unfair disadvantage. Students requiring special support or services should be registered with the office of Specialized Support & Disability Services (SSDS): http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/SSDS/. This is particularly important for students requiring special exam arrangements. Once you have registered with SSDS, it is your responsibility to provide the instructor with a "Letter of Introduction" and, if necessary, an "Exam Instruction & Authorization" form.

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?):

The Student Distress Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
Drop in: 030-N in the S.U.B.
Visit: www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc
Chat: http://www.campuscrisischat.com/

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Sept. 2
Introduction to the course

Sept. 5, 7, 9
Republic Chapters One-Three  pp. 3-70 What is Justice?
Sept. 12, 14, 16
*Republic*, Chapters Four-Six pp. 71-158. **The Soul and the City**

Sept. 19, 21, 23:
*Republic*, Chapters Seven-Ten pp. 159-276 **Philosophers as Kings**

Sept. 26, 28, 30
*The Prince* Letter to Vettori, Dedication, Chapters One-Eight pp. 1-30
**First working paper on Plato due, Sept. 30**

Oct. 3, 5, 7
*The Prince* Chapters Fifteen-end pp. 47-80

Oct. 12, 14
*Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* Part One – 37-60

Oct. 17, 19, 21
*Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* Part Two – 60-81

Oct. 24, 26, 28
*Second Treatise of Government* Chapters 1-4
**Second working paper on Rousseau due, Oct. 28**

Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4
*Second Treatise of Government* Chapters 5-13

Nov. 14, 16, 18
Marx
*Communist Manifesto* "Bourgeois and Proletarians", "Proletarians and Communists"

Nov. 21, 23, 25
Marx
*Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (selections)
*Alienated Labour*

Nov. 30, Dec. 2, 4
Marx
*Private Property and Communism*
**Third working paper on Marx due, Dec. 2**
AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENSE

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISPRESENTATION OF FACTS

Amendments to the Code of Student Behavior occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit www.gouveme.net.
The Campus Law Review Committee is the committee of the Faculty Council charged with the responsibility for the review of the Code of Student Behavior and of student discipline.

Dr. Steven Dew
President and Vice-President (Academic)

Professor Steven Penny
Chair, Campus Law Review Committee

The procedures outlined in this document are intended to guide the President’s decision-making process, but are not exhaustive. The President reserves the right to adjust the procedures as necessary to ensure fairness and due process for all parties involved.

Sections:

304.4: (a) If the President determines that a hearing is necessary, the President shall appoint an impartial hearing officer to hear the matter and issue a written decision.

304.5: (a) If the President determines that a hearing is unnecessary, the President shall issue a written decision.

5.02.0: (a) The President shall issue a written decision in a hearing in accordance with the procedures outlined in this section.

Possible Sanctions:

- Probation
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Other

For review with each class at the beginning of every term.

Excerpts from the Code of Student Behavior.