

POLS 335 – History of Political Thought
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Monday-Friday 10:30-11:45 AM
Summer 2014

Instructor: Anjali Nath
E-mail: anath@hawaii.edu

Office: Burns 4121
Office Hours: W 8:15-10:15 & by appt.

“No great idea in its beginning can ever be within the law. How can it be within the law? The law is stationary. The law is fixed. The law is a chariot wheel which binds us all regardless of conditions or place or time.”

-Emma Goldman

Course Description

This course offers a broad overview of various approaches, concepts and issues raised in the history of political philosophy and thought. As many canons of political thought have developed throughout time and space, this class focuses on those traditions bearing particular significance to contemporary questions of power and politics in the United States. What can we learn from Socrates to Marx & how have their contemporaries extended their theories through approaches that can complicate our own thought? How have both world-renowned philosophers and everyday people contributed to what is (and isn't) considered political thought in the U.S.?

We will examine how American political thought originated and how it continues to evolve today. Through film, lecture, essays, comic strips, letters, autobiography, and discussion, we will ask questions about the meanings of the political. Our scope will include academic and other intellectual perspectives on such topics as Western philosophy, the state, equality, colonialism, freedom, individualism, power, capitalism, justice, privilege, oppression, and democracy. Throughout the course, our theoretical engagement with these ideas can be grounded within both historical context and contemporary debate. Ultimately, our study of various political philosophies will prompt us to challenge how we think politically and whose knowledge counts.

Course Text

- Articles can be found online via Laulima.
- Linebaugh & Rediker *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*

Course Requirements/Grading Policy

Assessment of student performance will be based on the following criteria:

Class Attendance	20%
Class Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%

Discussion Questions	10%
Final Paper	30%

Grading Scale

A+	100%	A	94-99%	A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%	B	84-86%	B-	80-83%
C+	77-79	C	74-76%	C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%	D	64-66%	D-	60-63%
F	59% and below				

Statement on Academic Integrity

Students who violate university standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions. Academic dishonesty refers to obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Academic dishonesty also includes helping someone commit an act of academic dishonesty. Policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty will fail the course.

The University of Hawai'i Student Conduct Code defines plagiarism as follows:

“Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved.”

Class Participation

Since classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion, regular participation is required. Participation grades will be based on both the quantity and quality of a student's participation. You must come to class ready to participate. This means all homework should be done in advance of the class. You will not receive participation points if you engage in the following activities during class:

- using a cell phone, laptop, blackberry, pager, beeper, i-pod, or other device
- sleeping or resting your head on your desk
- engaging in private conversations
- reading the newspaper or other materials, checking day planners, etc.

Quizzes

I will assign in-class writings based upon the homework for the class period. They will not be announced in advance. Each quiz will be worth an equal portion of your total quiz grade and will be very brief- written during the first ten minutes of class. The essays will be graded primarily on content and coherence. I must be able

to read the essay to grade it, so write clearly. Yes, this is a way for me to ensure that you are doing the assigned homework!

Discussion Questions

Each student will come to class daily ready to share at least two questions they have about the assigned reading for that class period. I will select students at random to share their discussion questions with the entire class. Each of the ten times you share your discussion questions will be worth 1% of your final class grade.

Final Paper:

This semester you will write an original paper (approximately 9-11 pages, excluding your list of works cited) that envisions a political utopia. When appropriate, reference how this utopia has been influenced by the texts studied in our course. What are the major political institutions, decision-making processes, and value systems within this utopia? How would it come about from our contemporary dystopia? How is power allocated? How would this political system understand justice? What primary political problems is your utopia well suited to address? You are welcome to frame your interrogation of these questions within your neighborhood, the local community, or a larger scale. More details regarding this assignment and how it will be graded will be distributed well in advance of the due date.

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday 7/7

- Introduction to Course

Tuesday 7/8

- Plato *The Republic* excerpt

Wednesday 7/9

- Plato cont.

Thursday 7/10

- Aristotle *Politics* excerpt

Friday 7/11

- Machiavelli *The Prince* excerpt

Monday 7/14

- Hobbes *Leviathan*

Tuesday 7/15

- Locke *Second Treatise of Government*

Wednesday 7/16

- Wollstonecraft *A Vindication on the Rights of Woman*

Thursday 7/17

- Pateman *Women & Consent*

Friday 7/18

- Rousseau *Discourse on Inequality*

Monday 7/21

- Linebaugh & Rediker *The Many-Headed Hydra* Intro & ch. 5

Tuesday 7/22

- L & R ch. 6

Wednesday 7/23

- L & R ch. 7

Thursday 7/24

- L & R ch. 8

Friday 7/25

- L & R ch. 9

Monday 7/28

- Truth *Ain't I a Woman?*

Tuesday 7/29

- Truth cont.

Wednesday 7/30

- Mill *On Liberty*

Thursday 7/31

- Mill cont.

Friday 8/1

- Concurrent Resolution 331

Monday 8/4

- Marx *Selections from Capital*

Tuesday 8/5

- Marx cont.

Wednesday 8/6

- Parsons *A Word to Tramps*

Thursday 8/7

- Parsons cont.

Friday 8/8

- Tocqueville *Democracy in America* Vol. 1. Part 1 excerpt.

Monday 8/11

- *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* excerpt

Tuesday 8/12

- King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

Wednesday 8/13

- Concluding course

Thursday 8/14

- Turn in hard copy of final paper