POLS 335: Political Philosophy and Theory
Benjamin Schrader
Mon-Fri
Office: Saunders 617
Office Hours:

Course Description
What is Political Theory? This class aims to understand this question and goes through time to understand it. Starting with an examination of classical Greek philosophers up to the works of Michel Foucault. The course then moves to see how some of this theory is utilized and ends by examining current theoretical works. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand how to apply theory to every day matters.

Course Standards
Every student at UH has the ability to succeed in my course. The difference between success and failure is not matter of intelligence, but rather one of attitude, effort, and initiative. There is a difference between passively listening to lectures and critically engaging with complex texts. There is a difference between regurgitating facts and actively applying new concepts, just as there is a difference between taking multiple choice tests and writing sophisticated papers. In this sense, successful students will be those who embrace growth and hard work. They will overcome self-defeating behavior (i.e. skipping class, not reading, half-baked papers), make use of available resources, and turn freely to others for help.

The course will demand that its members read critically, participate actively, and write effectively. Most of all, it will ask students work with their fellow members to create an environment where ideas and arguments matter. On a more mundane note:

- Students should expect to be involved in each class. I will work hard to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to earn their performance points. In this regard, more than just showing up, you will need to offer meaningful contributions.
- Project Proposals and Short Papers must be submitted via Laulima mail in a Word or pdf attachment **before the start of class on the specified dates.** Work submitted after that time will be penalized 10% per day.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner (i.e., respect your classmates, turn off cell phones, no outside work or reading, etc.). Those who fail to adhere to these basic guidelines will be removed from class.

Reading Materials
Portis, Edward. *Reconstructing the Classics: Political Theory From Plato to Marx*
All additional readings will be made available on Laulima. You will need to have a well-marked hard or electronic copy in front of you to succeed in class.

**Grading Criteria**

This course is designed to enable students to become sophisticated political science thinkers, speakers, and writers. As such, I am placing a premium on in-class performance and the ability to craft academically-sound papers. As such, course grades will be comprised of two elements: in-class performance (40%), final project (60%).

**Class Participation:** Only a portion of what you will gain from this course will be drawn from the instructor as the course has been designed to put students in charge of their learning (no spoon-feeding here). I expect that your classmates—via class discussions and group work—will play an instrumental role in your learning experience. To encourage this collaborative approach to learning, your participation grade is comprised of two categories: group discussants and daily contributions.

- **Discussants:** Beginning with Week 2, class discussions will be headed by teams of two or three students, depending on the size of the class. Each team will be responsible for presenting a reconstruction of the reading, unpacking (or minimally identifying) challenging sections and concepts, and posing provoking questions. Creativity is encouraged provided the aforementioned criteria are met. To be clear, THESE SHOULD NOT BE PLOT SUMMARIES; please engage critically with the text and create ways of drawing the class into a vibrant discussion.

- **Daily Contributions:** One of the shortcomings associated with student-led discussions is that non-presenters can be duped into thinking they have the day off. I will help you avoid this pitfall by working to call upon each student in every class. Therefore, it is in your best interest to not only read thoroughly, but also come prepared with insightful questions and comments. While I do not demand that students have THE correct answer, you will need to offer a response that evinces a sufficient level of forethought. Furthermore, when there is a guest speaker students are expected to ask thoughtful questions. If questions are not being posed, additional work may be assigned. While there will be a substantially lesser amount of reading the final two weeks, it does not mean that the students are allowed to slack off; attendance will still be taken, as well as participation points. Furthermore, this will allow students to make their final papers top quality work.

**Final Project:** Each student will submit a formal research paper (~12-15 pages, well-formed research question, professional writing style, footnotes, etc.) that examines a contemporary critical issue, noting its historical emergence as well as its lasting impacts on the shaping of society. Possible themes include: acts of legislation, laws or constitutional amendments, political events, cultural phenomena, ideological shifts, etc. Detailed guidelines will be handed out later in the semester.
• A Project Proposal will be due ______________. This should include your research question and a detailed outline of the project’s argument. This assignment will constitute 10% of your Final Project grade.

• A Short Paper, 5-8 pages examining the problematic of the “nation,” will be due ______________. This assignment is designed to allow you to pre-write the theory section of your Final Project and will comprise 30% of the project’s grade.

• The Final Paper must be submitted via Laulima. Late papers will be penalized 10% per day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT
Students are required to follow the UH Manoa campus policies as listed in the course catalog or found here: http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm. Students are required to be respectful of their classmates and refrain from disruptive behavior in the classroom and on campus. If you engage in cheating or plagiarism, you will receive an F (0.0) grade for the course and I will be forced to report you for academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student’s language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved. If you can find it online, so can I. If you have questions regarding what does and does not constitute plagiarism, please ask me.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please let me know and contact the KOKUA Program in Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services or call them at (808)956-7511.

Course Breakdown

Week 1: Introduction/Creating a “Critical Attitude”/Classical Theory
- Mon: Course Introduction
- Tue: The Politics of Truth: Michel Foucault
  Kant, Immanuel. “Was ist Aufklarung.” Pg. 29-37
- Wed: Foucault continued: “What is Critique.” Pg. 41-67; “What is Enlightenment.” Pg. 97-119

**Week 2: Classical Theory**
- Mon: Aristotle Politics Book 1 & Portis: Pg. 28-42
- Tue: Machiavelli The Prince [http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1232](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1232) Chapters 5-18
- Wed: Machiavelli cont. Portis: 71-85
- Fri: Locke & Rousseau from Portis Book Pgs: 101-129

**Week 3: Classical Theory Continued**
  **(PAPER PROPOSAL DUE In Class)**
- Tue: Gramsci readings on State & Society
- Wed: Foucault: Society Must Be Defended Chap 1; Pgs: 1-19
- Thurs: Foucault: Society Must Be Defended Chap 11; Pgs: 239-263
- Fri: Writing workshop

**Week 4: Contemporary Theory**
- Mon: Agamben: Homo Saucer
- Tue: Anderson: Imagined Communities
- Wed: Woodward: Identity & Difference
- Thur: Said: Orientalism (Introduction)
- Fri: Spivak: Can the Subaltern Speak?
  **(Short Paper Due via Laulima)**

**Week 5: Contemporary Theory Continued**
- Mon: Connolly: Capitalism & Christianity American Style (Intro & Chap 1)
- Tue: Bennett: Vibrant Matter (Chap 1 & 2)
- Wed: The Invisible Committee: The Coming Insurrection (Part 1)
- Thur: The Invisible Committee: The Coming Insurrection (Part 2)
- Fri: Negarestani: The Militarization of Peace: Absence of Terror or Terror of Absence?

**Week 6: Contemporary Theory Continued**
- Mon: Protevi: Political Affect (Intro)
- Tue: Protevi: Political Affect: (Chapter 4)
- Wed: Ong: Graduated Sovereignty
- Thur: Student Paper Presentations
- Fri: Student Paper Presentations
  **(Final Paper Due Via Laulima)**