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FALL SEMESTER, 2007
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Modern Political Theory

PL 310

Course description:

This course covers the concepts and the theories of modern political theory. The course analyses the main theoretical schools of political thought and ideologies. The course provides an examination of the ideas associated with modern ideologies including liberalism, nationalism, socialism, and others. Attention will be paid to the historical development of political theories. The class format will include lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to do a small research project, utilizing information technology.

Course goals:

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of modern political theory and ideologies in a global context. A major goal is to provide the student with the necessary tools to analyze political theories. Priority is given to conceptualization of different articulation of modern political thought. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of modern political theory.

Required readings:

Heywood A., *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. New York, 2007.
Von Mises L., *Liberalism: The Classical Tradition*. New York, 2004.
Smith A. D., *Nationalism: Theory, Ideology, History*. New York, 2001.
Kolakowski L., *Main Currents of Marxism*. New York, 2005.
Supplementary reading materials to be assigned (*assigned readings*).

Recommended readings:

Berlin I., *Liberty*. London, 2002.
Popper K. R., *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. London, 2002.
Von Hayek F. A., *The Constitution of Liberty*. London 1976.

General Readings:

Hutchinson J., Smith A. D. (eds.), *Nationalism*. Oxford, 1994.
Pipes R., *Communism: A History*. New York, 2001.
Gellner E., *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca NY, 1992.
Courtois S., et al., *The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression*. Cambridge MA, 1999.

Course requirements:

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).
A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).
A Presentation.
Regular attendance and participation in class.

Program:

<u>Unit 1</u> (Sep. 3, 5)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions. <i>(assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 2</u> (Sep. 10, 12)	Understanding Ideology. Political Ideologies in the Twenty-First Century. Liberalism. <i>(Heywood, 1-22; von Mises, 1-75; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 3</u> (Sep. 17, 19)	The Primacy of the Individual. Government and Democracy. Classical Liberalism. Modern Liberalism. <i>(Heywood, 23-64; von Mises, 76-118; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 4</u> (Sep. 24, 26)	Conservatism. The Desire to Conserve. Authoritarian, Paternalistic, and Libertarian Conservatism. <i>(Heywood, 65-98; von Mises, 119-160; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 5</u> (Oct. 1, 3)	Nationalism. For the Love of the Country. Nationalism and Politics. Beyond Nationalism. <i>(Heywood, 143-174; Smith, 1-61; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 6</u> (Oct. 8, 10)	Anarchism. Against the State. Collectivist and Individualist Anarchism. Roads to Anarchy. <i>(Heywood, 175-202; Smith, 62-119; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 7</u> (Oct. 15, 17*)	Fascism. Strength through Unity. Fascism and the State. Corporatism. The Politics of Race. <i>(Heywood, 203-229; Smith, 120-146; assigned readings)</i> * MIDTERM EXAM
<u>Unit 8</u> (Oct. 22, 24)	Socialism. No Man is an Island. Marxism. Orthodox Communism. Social Democracy. <i>(Heywood, 99-142; Kolakowski, 730-778; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 9</u> (Oct. 29, 31)	Marxism-Leninism. Stalinism. The Frankfurt School. Marxism and the "New Left." <i>(Kolakowski, 881-933; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 10</u> (Nov. 5, 7)	Feminism. The Politics of the Personal. Sex and Politics. Liberal, Socialist, and Radical Feminism. <i>(Heywood, 230-254; Kolakowski, 1060-1123; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 11</u> (Nov. 12, 14)	Ecologism. Return to Nature. Ecology and Sustainability. Nature and Politics. Eco-Anarchism. <i>(Heywood, 255-280; Kolakowski, 1148-1214; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 12</u> (Nov. 19, 21)	Religious Fundamentalism. Back to Basics. Religion and Politics. Anti-Modernism. <i>(Heywood, 281-309; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 13</u> (Nov. 26, 28)	Multiculturalism. Diversity within Unity. Identity and Culture. Minority Rights. <i>(Heywood, 310-332; assigned readings)</i>
<u>Unit 14</u> (Dec. 3, 5*)	Ideology without End. Post-Ideological Age. Current Ideology Issues in Global Context. Conclusions. <i>(Heywood, 333-340; assigned readings)</i> * FINAL PAPER *PORTFOLIO *WRITTEN PRESENTATION
(Dec. 8 -14, tba*)	* FINAL EXAM

Exams: Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exam has two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose one theme out of three proposed, and will write a well organized essay. The second part of the exam is made of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Final paper: The final paper (3.000 words) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be precisely defined and worthy of investigation. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper.

Final paper format:

Cover page - title, student's name, course name, instructor's name, semester, year.

Text pages - a well organized research paper with an introduction, a body with critical analyses and evidence presented, and conclusion.

Additional materials (when appropriate) - charts, maps, photos, other materials.

Bibliography pages, listing the journal articles and electronic references.

Presentation: Students are encouraged to give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well-organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. A separate written (three pages) presentation in substitution of the oral presentation is accepted.

Grading:

The final grade will be computed as follows: midterm exam, 30%; final exam, 30%; final paper, 30%; portfolio, presentation, and other assignments, 10%. Absences, lateness, and missed deadlines will lower the final grade by 10%. Improvement over the semester will be rewarded. Letter grades correspond to the numerical scale:

A to A- = 100% to 90%. B+ to B- = 89% to 80%. C+ to C- = 79% to 70%. D+ to D- = 69% to 60%. F = <60%.

Papers retrieval:

All papers are retrievable from the instructor's office up to the end of the following semester. Students can have their papers mailed to them by giving the instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Library sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

Journals:

Journal of Political Ideologies. Political Theory. The European Journal of Political Theory. Telos. Journal of Politics.

Data bases:

EBSCO. Social Sciences Abstracts. Historical Abstracts. JSTOR.

Internet sites:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/ptbase.htm>

<http://www.library.qut.edu.au/subjectpath/ideologies.jsp>

This syllabus is on line: www.gabrielesimoncini.it

Academic honesty

As stated in the university catalog, any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade on the work in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty, irrespective of the weight of the assignment, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A student who is reported twice for academic dishonesty is subject to summary dismissal from the University. In such a case, the Academic Council will then make a recommendation to the President, who will make the final decision.

Students with learning or other disabilities

JCU does not discriminate on the basis of disability or handicap. However, in order to ensure a satisfactory learning experience, the University follows a four-step process in dealing with student limitations (see Catalogue). Students with disabilities are required to follow the process, which begins at the time of application, and also to identify themselves by the end of the add/drop period. I will contact Academics to learn about any special accommodations mandated under the disability management plan.