

20th Century Political Theory

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Instructor: David Golemboski

Email: golemboskid@missouri.edu

Office Hours: TBD

Course Overview

This course is designed to familiarize students with key movements in Western political thought during the 20th century. The 20th century saw both massive democratic successes and unprecedented exercises of power, violence, and domination. The authors surveyed in this course provide a diverse array of perspectives on politics, its purposes, its possibilities, and its limitations. The schedule of readings proceeds largely chronologically, with some deviations from that rule in the latter part of the semester. The course assumes familiarity with currents in the history of political thought that inform the approaches we will study here.

Course Requirements

Grades in this course are determined by your performance at the following:

- Attendance and Participation (30%): Classes will consist primarily of discussion, so your ready and active participation is of critical importance. You are expected to arrive each day having completed the readings and prepared to discuss them in a sophisticated manner.
- Two Analytic Papers (35% apiece): You will be asked to write two papers of 8-10 pages each, in which you will critically assess one or more of the assigned texts. More detailed guidelines for the papers will be provided closer to the first paper's deadline. You are encouraged to consult with me in identifying topics and drafting your papers.

Extensions and Late Submissions

As a matter of policy, I will not grant extensions for the papers. Papers submitted after the beginning of class will be penalized by 10%, with an additional 20% penalty for each additional day late. I will not accept any paper more than 72 hours after the deadline.

Participation and Electronic Devices

Regular, active participation in discussion is both a formal requirement and a substantial determinant of your grade in this course. Students have different styles of participation, so there is no specific requirement for how often you should speak in class. Rather, I expect that you will demonstrate your engagement in discussion by listening actively, raising questions, and making thoughtful contributions. Though you might not speak during every class meeting, you should be *prepared* to speak during every meeting, as I may call on you unannounced. I do not mind laptop use in class, but note two caveats: 1) I reserve the right to prohibit laptops if I judge that they are inhibiting discussion. 2) It is your responsibility to be engaged in discussion, and if you are unable to do this and use a laptop simultaneously, it will be obvious to me. So, if you plan to use a laptop, do so judiciously. I do not believe that using a cell phone is compatible with active participation, so you should stow your phone during meetings.

Required Texts

The following texts will be made available for purchase at the bookstore, though you are welcome to purchase them online or from other sources. Other assigned texts will be made available in electronic form.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*
Leo Strauss, *Natural Right & History*
Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punish*
John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*
Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, & Utopia*
I.M. Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*

Schedule of Readings

Week 1: Diagnosing Modernity

- Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, chapters 1-2.
- Max Weber, "Science as a Vocation."

Week 2: On Politics

- Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation."
- Carl Schmit, *The Concept of the Political* (selections)

Week 3: Pragmatism

- William James, "The Moral Equivalent of War."
- John Dewey, *The Essential Dewey* (selections)

Week 4: Recovering Political Philosophy

- Leo Strauss, *Natural Right & History*

Week 5: Arendt's Republicanism

- Hannah Arendt, *On the Human Condition*

Week 6: Power in Modernity

- Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punish*

Week 7: Egalitarian Liberalism

- John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (selections)

Week 8: Critics of Rawls

PAPER #1 DUE

- Michael Sandel, "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self."
- Susan Moller Okin, "Justice and Gender."

Week 9: Political Liberalism

- John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (selections)
- Charles Larmore, "The Moral Basis of Political Liberalism."

Week 10: Libertarianism

- Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, & Utopia*

Week 11: Habermasian Critical Liberalism

- Jurgen Habermas, *The Inclusion of the Other* (selections)

Week 12: Racial Justice

- Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (selections)
- Cornel West, “Nihilism in Black America.”

Week 13: Politics of Identity

- I.M. Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*.
- William Connolly, *Identity/Difference* (selections).

Week 14: A Return to Politics?

- Bonnie Honig, *Political Theory and the Displacement of Politics* (selections).
- Raymond Geuss, *Philosophy & Real Politics* (selections).

PAPER #2 DUE 1 WEEK AFTER LAST CLASS