



# Political Science 210 Introduction to Political Theory

Winter 2009



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TR1:30-3:18, AP 0383  
Off. Hrs. Wed. 4:00-5:00, and by appt.  
2126 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall

*This course is an introduction to political theory and assumes no prior knowledge. We will discuss six topic areas: democracy; justice; collective action; power and freedom; ethnicity, gender and identity; and sovereignty. We will adopt a “smorgasbord” approach, sampling from well-known theorists’ work addressing issues of contemporary concern. For example, we will discuss how the 9/11 attack affects our thinking about national sovereignty. Students will develop analytic ability, reading facility, and communication proficiency. As well, they will have a foundation for taking further courses in the subfield of political theory. Course requirements are reading the assigned texts, participating in class discussions and exercises, preparing for quizzes, and taking one mid-term and one final exam.*

## **Course Requirements\***

1. You must complete the readings in a timely fashion and participate actively in class discussions. To encourage you to prepare well for class, we will have a series of short, unannounced quizzes based on course readings. Together, these quizzes count for 30% of your grade.
2. You will write an in-class mid-term exam, and an in-class final exam. Their weights will be 30% and 40%, respectively.

## **Course Materials\*\***

Course readings for Political Science 210 are available online through Carmen.

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\* All of the work that you do in this course is expected to be your own. Plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without citing them) and other forms of cheating will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

\*\* Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, 292-2880.

## Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

### Introduction and Overview

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Introduction

### **PART I: DEMOCRACY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Thursday, Jan. 8

J.S. Mill, “On the Subjugation of Women,” 261-271;  
“Of Liberty of Thought and Discussion,” *On Liberty*,  
36-48.



Tuesday, Jan. 13

Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*, Chapters 6-9.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Jon Elster, “The Market and the Forum.”

Tuesday, Jan 20

Scott E. Page, “Diversity and Problem Solving,” *The Difference*, pp. 131-174.

Thursday, Jan. 22

Thomas Hobbes, selection from *The Leviathan*.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Garret Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” and “Framework for Understanding International Collective Action for Climate Change.”

### **PART II: JUSTICE**

Thursday, Jan. 29

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, pp. 26-35, 149-82.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

John Rawls. *A Theory of Justice (Revised Edition)*. Cambridge, Mass:  
Harvard University Press, 1999, selections.



Thursday, Feb. 5  
Midterm review

**MIDTERM EXAM, Parts I & II**

Tuesday, Feb. 10

**PART III: POWER AND FREEDOM**



Thursday, Feb. 12

Jeremy Bentham, selection from *A Fragment on Government*.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Karl Marx, selections from “Critique of Political Economy,” “Estranged Labor,” and “Communist Manifesto”.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*. Trans. By Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1977. Chapter 3.

**PART IV: ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND IDENTITY**

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Molefi Asante, “Racism, Conscience, and Afrocentricity,” *Lure and Loathing: Essays on Race, Identity, and the Ambivalence of Assimilation*. Ed. Gerald Early. New York: Penguin Press, 1993.



Thursday, Feb. 26

Robert Williams-Gooding. “Race, Multiculturalism, and Democracy.” In *Look, A Negro: Philosophical Essays on Race, Culture, and Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Tuesday, March 3

Carol Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals,” *Signs*, 12:4 (Summer, 1987), 687-718.

## PART V: SOVEREINTY



Thursday, March 5

Jürgen Habermas. “Fundamentalism and Terror: A Dialogue with Jürgen Habermas.” In *Philosophy in a Time of Terror: Dialogues with Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida*. Giovanna Borradori. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003, 25-41.

Tuesday, March 10

Jacques Derrida. “Autoimmunity: Real and Symbolic Suicides.” In *Philosophy in a Time of Terror: Dialogues with Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida*. Giovanna Borradori. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Thursday, March 12

Final Review



**FINAL: TIME AND LOCATION ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR**