

Political Theory
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
Fall 2009

Dr. Tim Dale
dalet@uwgb.edu
Phone: 920-465-2061
Office: MAC A322
 MW 12:00-2:00
 T*TH 2:00-3:00
 Or by appointment

Course description

The course will introduce students to important questions, thinkers, and concepts in the history of political thought. Through discussion of the ideas and influential figures of Western political philosophy, students will acquire basic knowledge of the development of political thinking and a deeper understanding of consequential political principles such as democracy, justice, equality, and freedom.

Course requirements

The course grade will be based on two exams, three short papers, and class participation. The exams will involve multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions related to the course readings and lectures. In each of the papers, students will be required to critically examine a particular concept as it is expressed in the writings of a philosopher we cover in the class. The papers must be at least 1000 words each (approximately 4 pages double-spaced), and submitted before the deadlines listed on the syllabus. Further details about the paper assignments will be given in class.

Because political theory is an interactive enterprise, class attendance and participation is an essential aspect of course performance. Several class activities will require class discussion and/or group work, thus students are expected to attend every class. Each absence after 1 will deduct 1% from the final class grade. Arriving to class late or leaving early will count as half of an absence.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Class participation – 10%

Papers – 30%

Exam 1 – 30%

Exam 2 – 30%

Your grade on everything in the course is to be based on your own work. Academic misconduct in any form, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. (Plagiarism is the act of copying or paraphrasing another's writing without citing the source, or using passages or portions of text without using quotation marks.) In the case of a violation, the student will receive a zero for the assignment, and in severe or repeat cases face the possibility of failing the course. Cases of academic misconduct will also be reported to the Dean of Students, and procedures will be followed according to Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code (http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies_procedures/students/pdfs/uws014.pdf).

Writing Emphasis

This course is a writing emphasis course, which means that it is designed in part to evaluate your writing. When grading your papers I will be evaluating the quality of your writing in addition to the content. You are highly encouraged to use this course to improve your writing, and to this end utilize the resources of the Writing Center as you prepare your writing for the course.

Required text:

Political Thinking, Political Theory, and Civil Society, 3rd Edition
by Steven DeLue and Timothy Dale
ISBN: 0205619797

Course Schedule

*All dates and assignments are tentative and may be changed by the instructor.
Notice of changes will be announced in class.*

Lecture	Date	Readings
1. Introduction	Sept 9	1
2. Plato	Sept 9, 16	2
3. Aristotle	Sept 16	3
4. Religion and Political Thought	Sept 23	4 & 5
5. Machiavelli	Sept 30	6
6. Hobbes	Oct 7	7
7. Locke	Oct 14	9
EXAM 1	Oct 21	
8. Rousseau	Oct 28	10
9. German Idealism: Kant and Hegel	Nov 4	11 & 12
10. Marx	Nov 11	13
11. Liberalism: Mill and Rawls	Nov 18	14 & 15
12. Conservatism	Dec 2	16
13. Nietzsche and Foucault	Dec 9	17
14. Feminism	Dec 9	18
15. Multiculturalism	Dec 9	19

Important Dates

Paper 1 due September 30th

Exam 1 October 21st

Paper 2 due November 11th

Paper 3 due December 9th

Exam 2 - _____