

Political Science 302
Spring, 2002
Syllabus

This is a course in modern political thought, in which we will be discussing primary sources. Our goal is to achieve some understanding of the principles on which modern politics are based, and to some substantial degree this means understanding the modern reaction to the ancient understanding of nature and things. We will consider how modern “natural right” differs from ancient views thereof. We will also consider how History and Historicism have influenced political life by redefining the principles by which we take our bearings. And finally, we will consider how the modern project has culminated in a relativistic understanding of the world (i.e., The Death of God) that is pierced only by religious faith. In other words, the principles of modern politics are based either on no standards or on faith based standards. In any case, they are not based on autonomous human reason. We will consider how we came to this existential condition.

All the readings are difficult, though some are more “readable” than others. Also, they are of varying lengths, so that it will be important for you to begin reading some of the longer ones earlier in order for you to be able to comply with the main priority of the course. **Each reading should be completed by the first day that I begin to lecture on it.** In addition, you should refresh your memory of what you have read and what we have discussed in our previous class before you come to class on any given day. That is the best method to prepare for this course and to achieve the grade you desire.

There are eight readings for the course. You will be quizzed on them, and the six highest grades will account for 60% of your grade. Alternatively, you can hand in a two- page paper (about 600 words) **summarizing the main arguments of the reading.** These would be due on the **first** day a reading is due. We will adhere to the scheduled reading for each day. If we require more time to complete a given thinker, we will take that time toward the end of the semester in the time prescribed for “Discussion.” The other 40% of your grade will be composed of a final to be given during finals week, or a final paper, due on April 26, at the beginning of class for that day. My e-mail address is bshapir@emory.edu or on learnlink, which is the preferred mode of communication, and my phone number is 4-8334. I am almost always in my office Mondays through Thursdays from 11:30 to 11:45am and Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays from, 8:15 to 8:45am. **However, office hours are best done through appointment.** My office is Seney 307. There is a conference for this class on learnlink, and you should consult it regularly.

The Honor Code is always in force.

Schedule of Classes
Classes begin at 10:40 and end at 11:30 AM.

Jan. 16:	Introduction
Jan. 18, 23, 25, 28th:	Machiavelli
Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 4, 6:	Hobbes
Feb. 8, 11, 13, 15th:	Locke
Feb. 18, 20, 22, 25 27, March 1, 4, 6th:	Rousseau
March 18, 20, 22:	Hegel
March 25, 27, 29, April 1, 3:	Marx
April 8, 10, 12:	DeTocqueville
April 17, 19, 22, 24th:	Nietzsche
April 26, 29th:	Discussion

There will be no class on January 21st (MLK holiday) and no classes between March 11th and 15th because it is mid-semester break.