

Oxford College of Emory University
Pol. Sc. 302 Modern Political Thought
Syllabus

Seney 310
M, W, F 10:40-11:30
Spring 2006

William B. Cody, J.D., Ph.D.
Language 202
Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M 3:30-5:00
T, Th 2-4
W 3:30-4:30
F 9-10
& by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is a course in modern political thought, in which we will be reading and discussing primary sources. Our primary goal is to achieve some understanding of the principles on which modern politics are based, and to some extent this requires understanding the modern reaction to the ancient understanding of nature and things. We will consider how modern "natural right" differs from ancient views of such things. We will also consider how History and Historicism have influenced political life by redefining the principles by which people take their bearings. Finally, we will consider how the modern project has culminated in a relativistic understanding of the world. We will also spend considerable time developing skills in discussing and communicating the political ideas of the pillars of modern political philosophy whose works we study.

TEXTS:

Machiavelli: *THE PRINCE* (Chicago)
Hobbes: *LEVIATHAN*, PARTS I & II (Macmillan)
Locke: *THE SECOND TREATISE OF GOVERNMENT* (Macmillan)
Montesquieu: *THE SPIRIT OF THE LAWS* (Prometheus)
Rousseau: *THE FIRST AND SECOND DISCOURSES* (St. Martin)
Hegel: *THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY* (Prometheus)
Marx & Engels: *THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO* (International Publishers)
Nietzsche: *THE USE AND ABUSE OF HISTORY* (Macmillan)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two announced in-class tests will be given during the course of the semester. These tests will be given during regular class periods and will count for a total of 40% of the student's final grade. Any unexcused absence from a test will result in a grade of zero for that test. The scheduled dates for these tests are **February 15 and April 7**. A comprehensive final examination is scheduled for **2:00-5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2006**. The final exam will count for 30% of the student's final grade. In addition, there will be not fewer than six unannounced quizzes given during the course of the semester. The average of these quiz grades will count for 10% of the student's final grade. These quizzes may be given on any scheduled class day. The remaining 10% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class discussion. All examinations, tests, and quizzes are cumulative.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS DISTURBANCE

Cell phones, pagers, and beepers are not permitted in my classroom unless they are completely turned off! In the event that any personal communication device or other device causes a disturbance by making its presence known (audibly or otherwise), the possessor of the device will immediately leave the room and be counted absent from the class for that day.

MAKE-UP WORK:

The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive--no "extra credit" will be allowed. An unexcused absence from any quiz, test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that quiz, test or examination.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are also expected to arrive for class on time. Students who are not in class are unable to participate in discussion and take quizzes and could lose points on the participation grade. In addition, students who miss more than three classes will lose the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of his or her final grade. Students who accumulate an excessive number of absences may be dropped from the course with a grade of WF (where appropriate).

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it. When in doubt, ask first! (See pages 96-99 of the 2005-2006 Catalog of Oxford College)

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. Unless otherwise notified in class (or noted on the outline), students should complete the reading assignments for each topic by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. For the purposes of quizzes, students are expected to have completed all readings by the first day they are due.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on page 85 of the 2005-2006 Catalog of Oxford College) will be used in determining grades for this class.

**THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY.**

OUTLINE OF THE CLASS SCHEDULE

Ja 18:	Introduction
Ja 20, 23, 25, 30; Feb. 1:	Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i> and selections from <i>The Discourses</i>
Ja 27:	AAC&U Annual Meeting. No Class (Read ahead; make-up class will be scheduled, if necessary)
Fb. 3, 6, 8, 10:	Hobbes: <i>Leviathan, Parts I & II</i>
Fb 15:	TEST I
Fb 13, 17, 20, 22:	Locke: <i>Second Treatise</i>
Fb , 24, 27; Mr 1, 3, 6, 8, 10:	Montesquieu: <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>
Mr 13-17:	Spring Break
Mr 20, 22, 24:	Rousseau: <i>The Second Discourse</i>
Mr 27, 29, 31; Ap 3:	Rousseau: <i>The Social Contract</i>
Ap 7:	TEST II
Ap 5, 10, 12:	Hegel: "Introduction" to <i>Philosophy of History</i>
Ap 14, 17, 19, 21:	Marx & Engels: <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
Ap 24, 26, 28:	Nietzsche: <i>The Use and Abuse of History</i>
May 1:	Review & Discussion
May 8:	Final Examination (2:00-5:00)