



Saint Louis University

Madrid Campus

POLS 1700 Foundations of Western Political Theory
Spring 2018 – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 -13:45 (SIH A)
(Thursday 11 January – Thursday 3 May 2018)

Instructor: Simona Rentea, Ph.D.
Please contact me by email in the first instance:
simona.rentea@slu.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 15:00-16:00
Office: San Ignacio Hall 310

Prerequisites: None



Introduction:

In this course, we are going to examine some of the key ideas in the history and development of Western political thought from the Ancient period to the present. These are the ideas that have attempted to provide answers to fundamental questions for us today: what are the limits of freedom; how can government be legitimated; is violence ever justified, how 'to live well' in community with others; what is the role of justice and virtue in politics? In so doing, we will come across ideas that have dramatically shaped the societies in which we live today, both in the West and beyond. Encountering these ideas, we will also examine the context of their emergence and reflect on the complex interplay between ideas and the societies from which they emerge and which they in their turn helped shape. We will consequently develop a contextualist, genealogical approach to the history of Western political thought by placing particular emphasis on the relationship between political and intellectual ideas and the relations of forces operating within the societies in which they emerge.

Course aims:

The aims of the course are:

1. To provide a broad introduction to the key ideas in the development of Western political thought;
2. To establish the role of Western political thought in the development of modern politics and societies;
3. To examine the relationship between political theory and the emergence of key political and intellectual currents leading up to the modern era.

Learning outcomes:

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

1. Determine the broad contours and current in the history and development of Western political thought;
2. Grasp and be able to explain the historical development of ideas in context;
3. Critically analyse the work of the key thinkers covered in the course.

Arts & Sciences Grading Scale can be accessed at: <http://www.slu.edu/x6352.xml>

Grade Points:		Grade Components:	Course Credits: 3
A	4.0	93%-100%	25% Midterm Exam
A-	3.7	90%-92%	10% Class Participation
B+	3.3	87%-89%	10% Simulation Participation
			10% Simulation Reflection
B	3.0	83%-86%	45% Final Exam
B-	2.7	80%-82%	
C+	2.3	73%-79%	
C	2.0	67%-72%	
C-	1.7	60%-66%	
D	1.0	50%-59%	
F	0.0	0-49%	

Requirements:

- Students should complete the readings before the date for which they are listed in the course outline. You are required to attend each class session prepared and ready to participate;
- Students will be graded on the basis of class participation (10%), a midterm exam (25%), the simulation participation and simulation reflection (10+10 =20%) and a final exam (45%);
- Students should follow the instructions, research and prepare their role and be ready to take an active part in the simulation event.

Classroom Philosophy:

- You are required to attend all sessions prepared to participate and think critically. You are required to attend all sessions prepared to participate and think critically during lecture and discussion sessions.
- I trust and expect that you will be able to sustain a mutually **respectful classroom atmosphere** by treating all classmates as equals and with due regard for their opinions.
- Except for legitimate reasons (doctor's letter certifying illness for example), you are expected to attend all sessions. If you have legitimate reasons for your absence, **an email should be sent to the tutor in advance of the class.**
- **Laptops will not be allowed in class except for taking notes** and in a manner that would not disrupt your engagement with the class and your colleagues' efforts to concentrate. **Phones are not allowed in the classroom under any circumstances.**
- All required assignments are to be submitted on time. Essays or assignments that are handed in late will be marked down by 5% a day for every day that they are late.

Clarification on assessment:

1. Your *classroom participation (10%)* mark will reflect:

- The frequency of attendance and commitment to the course.
- Lateness and unexcused absences will be reflected in the final participation mark. You are **permitted two unexcused absences**. For each additional unexcused absence, your participation mark will drop by **10%**.
- Your consistency in covering the required reading material and ability to extract the most relevant information for the classroom discussion.
- Your ability to contribute questions in class and taking an active role in classroom discussions.

2. You will receive detailed instructions about the simulation event during the semester. You will be set into groups and be given roles to prepare. **Your mark for the simulation exercise (20%) will include:**

- **Simulation participation (10%):**
 - Your preparation for the role (based on the instructions received);
 - Your determination to contribute actively during the exercise and the seriousness with which you commit to your role;
 - Your ability to work with your group in preparing your position and strategizing.
- **A 1,000 words simulation reflection piece to be submitted on 24 April** (paper copy, in class) (10%):
 - The reflection is asking you to write an evaluation of the simulation event by reflecting on the theories and ideas put forward by the various factions, following on from their intellectual figures, such as Rousseau and Burke.

3. The *midterm (25%) and final examinations (45%)* will be written on their respective dates. No alternative examination dates will be scheduled except in cases of excused medical absences.

- Review sheets with the topics and questions covered and the format for the exams will be provided prior to both the mid-term and final examinations. Revisions sessions will also be scheduled.
- Dates: the midterm will be held on **15 February** and final exam will be held on **10 May 2018**.

Academic accommodation statement

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 230, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counselling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment:

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose, we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of your work for this course, including any exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers and/or portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

Title IX Statement:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counsellors at the SLU-Madrid's Counselling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-

madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counselling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 91-700-1979) To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:<http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, tampering with another student's work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty.

Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions. Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. The complete SLU Academic Honesty Policy can be found at the following link: http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Important dates:

Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade of "W" and/or to Add a Class: Sunday 21 January 2018

Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options: Sunday 21 January 2018

Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of "W": Friday 9 March 2018

Foundations of Western Political Theory

Spring 2018 - Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 -13:45

Course textbook:

- **Boucher, David and Paul Kelly (2009), *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.**
- Additional readings to the textbook and informative radio programs can be accessed by clicking on the links in the syllabus, or by copying the URLs into your browser.
- An additional list of further reading is attached at the end of the syllabus.

Course Schedule

1. Thursday 11 January

General Introduction to the Course

Introducing the course syllabus, discuss assessment, expectations, and course format.

2. Tuesday 16 January

Issues in Political Theory

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Introduction: pp. 1-18.

PART I: POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD

3. Thursday 18 January

The Sophists: Politics of the Community

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 2: pp. 30-42.



4. Tuesday 23 January

Socrates: The Good Life

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 3: pp. 48- 59;

Plato, “Socrates’ Apology”, <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>

Also listen to *In Our Times Program* on Socrates,

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007zp21>

5. Thursday 25 January

Plato 1: Justice in the Republic

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 4: pp. 64-75;

Also listen to <http://www.historyofphilosophy.net/Plato-life>

6. Tuesday 30 January

Plato 2: Philosophy as a Way of Life

Reading: Plato's "Seventh Letter", online at: http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/seventh_letter.html

7. Thursday 1 February

Aristotle's Ethics

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 5: pp. 83-89;



8. Tuesday 6 February

Aristotle's Politics

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 5: pp. 89-96;

Also read excerpts from Aristotle's *Politics*, Book One:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.1.one.html>

In Our Time Program on Aristotle: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00f8530>

9. Thursday 8 February

Cicero: Reason and Natural Law

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 6: pp. 102- 112.

10. Tuesday 13 February

Exam revision

11. Thursday 15 February

Midterm Exam on sessions 1- 9.

PART II: MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

12. Tuesday 20 February

St. Augustine: The City of God and the City of Man

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 7: pp. 120- 127;

Also read Agustin's "The Two Cities", <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/aug-city2.asp>



13. Thursday 22 February
Winter break (University Closed)

14. Tuesday 27 January
Thomas Aquinas: The Natural and the Divine
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 8: pp. 139-145.

15. Thursday 1 March
Documentary session: Who is Afraid of Machiavelli?
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 10: pp. 165-174.

16. Tuesday 6 March
Niccolo Machiavelli: Political Realism in the City of Man
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 10: pp. 174-182;
Read from Machiavelli's "The Prince", Chapter V,
<http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince00.htm>
In Our Time Program on Machiavelli: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y26p>

PART III: ENLIGHTENMENT POLITICAL THEORY

17. Thursday 8 March
Thomas Hobbes: The Social Contract
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 11: pp. 191-205;
In Our Time on Hobbes: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k911>
From Hobbes' "Leviathan" (Excerpts):
<http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111hob.html>

18. Tuesday 13 March
Locke: Limited Government
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 12: pp. 209-222;
Locke's "Two Treatises of Government", <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1690locke-sel.asp>

19. Thursday 15 March
J.J. Rousseau: Locating and Enacting the General Will
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 15: pp. 266- 280;
Rousseau's "The Social Contract: Book Two", http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon_02.htm

20. Tuesday 20 March

Edmund Burke: The Tyranny of the Masses

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 16: pp. 284- 300;

Burke, “Reflections on the Revolution in France”,

http://www.constitution.org/eb/rev_fran.htm

21. Thursday 22 March

The Early Years of the French Revolution: Simulation Preparation Session

It is essential that everyone attend this session to understand his or her role and responsibilities in the upcoming simulation. Detailed instructions about roles will be provided during this session.

22. Tuesday 27 March

Semana Santa/Easter Week (University Closed)

23. Thursday 29 March

Semana Santa/Easter Week (University Closed)

24. Tuesday 3 April

Rousseau, Burke and the Revolution in France



The simulation places students in the summer of 1791 in revolutionary Paris. Students are leaders of major factions within the National Assembly, and the streets outside, as they struggle to create a constitution amidst internal chaos and threats of foreign invasion.

Will the king retain power? Will the priests of the Catholic Church obey the “general will” of the National Assembly or the dictates of the pope in Rome? Do traditional institutions and values constitute restraints on freedom and individual dignity or are they its essential basis? Are slaves, women, and Jews entitled to the “rights of man”? Is violence a legitimate means of changing society or of purging it of dangerous enemies?

In wrestling with these issues, students should consult Rousseau’s *Social Contract* and Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France* as well as individual and/or group research on the position of the various factions. Roles will be allocated in advance and more information and instructions provided during the course. Students will be asked to write a short reflection after the simulation on the process and their evaluation of the “result”.

25. Thursday 5 April

Staging of a Historical Event: The Revolution in France (continued)

26. Tuesday 10 April

Staging of a Historical Event: The Revolution in France (continued)

27. Thursday 12 April

Simulation de-brief and reflection

PART IV: MODERN POLITICAL THEORY

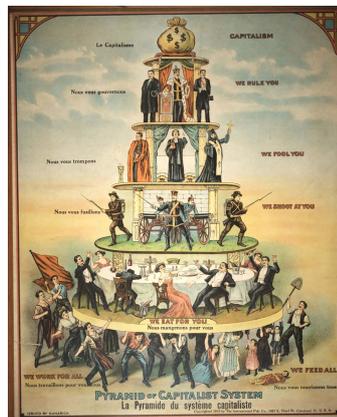
28. Tuesday 17 April

Marx and Engels: Alienation and the Communist Alternative

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 26: pp. 475-489;

The Manifesto of the Communist Party,

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>



29. Thursday 19 April

Hannah Arendt: Modernity and Violence

Reading: Hannah Arendt, “The Human Condition”, on Blackboard.



PART V:
THE POST-MODERN AND POST COLONIAL MOMENT IN POLITICAL THEORY

*****Simulation Reflection due 24 April (in class)*****

30. Tuesday 24 April

Michel Foucault: The Subject and Power

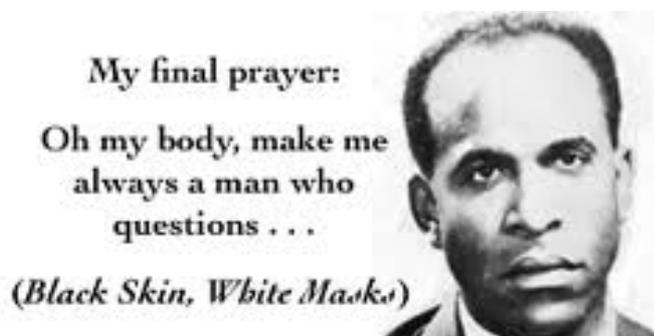
Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 31: pp. 577-588;
Foucault, “Subject and Power”, on Blackboard.



31. Thursday 26 April

Franz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask

Reading: Fanon, “Black Skin, White Mask”, on Blackboard.



32. Tuesday 1 May

Dia del Trabajador (University Closed)

33. Thursday 3 May

Conclusion and preparation for the final examination

***** The final exam will be held on Thursday 10 May 2018**

12:00- 14:00 (in the usual classroom) ***

ADDITIONAL COURSE READING LIST:

In addition to the course books and the additional reading provided through Blackboard as detailed above.

A reading list of thinker specific sources will be generated as we run through the course. Below however follows a list of other very useful introductory materials.

General Introductions:

Wolff, J. (1996) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*.

Kymlicka, W. (1990) *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, 2nd ed. 2002.

Brown, A. (1986) *Modern Political Philosophy*.

Hampton, J. (1997) *Political Philosophy*.

Geuss, R. (2001) *History and Illusion in Politics*.

Swift, A. (2001) *Political Philosophy: A Beginner's Guide for Students and Politicians*.

Knowles, D. (2001) *Political Philosophy*.

Christman, J. (2002) *Social and Political Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction*.

Miller, D. (2003) *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*.

Robinson, D. (2003) *Introducing Political Philosophy*.

White, M. (2003) *Political Philosophy: A Short Introduction*.

Calendar

Spring 2018

JANUARY

Sunday	7	Spring 2018 new student arrival and University Housing move-in date
Monday-Tuesday	8-9	Spring 2018 new student Welcome Sessions
Wednesday	10	Spring 2018 first day of classes
Sunday	21	Last day to drop a class without a grade W and /or add a class Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options
Friday	26	Application deadline for spring semester degree candidates No classes

FEBRUARY

Wednesday	14	Ash Wednesday Registration for Summer 2018 sessions begins
Thursday-Friday	22-23	No classes (Winter Break)
Tuesday	27	Professors' deadline to submit midterm grades

MARCH

Friday	9	Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W
Thursday	15	Last day to submit Transfer Application for fall semester
Saturday	24	Pre- <i>Semana Santa</i> University Housing move-out date
Monday-Wednesday	26-28	<i>Semana Santa</i> holiday (University closed)
Thursday	29	<i>Jueves Santo</i> holiday (University closed)
Friday	30	<i>Viernes Santo</i> holiday (University closed)

APRIL

Sunday	1	Easter Post- <i>Semana Santa</i> University Housing move-in date
Monday	2	Easter Monday - classes resume
Wednesday	4	Registration for Fall 2018 semester begins

MAY

Tuesday	1	<i>Día del Trabajador</i> holiday (University closed)
Wednesday	2	<i>Día de la Comunidad</i> holiday (University closed)
Thursday	3	Spring 2018 final day of classes

Friday	4	Spring 2018 final exams
Monday-Thursday	7-10	Spring 2018 final exams
Friday	11	University Housing move-out date
Saturday	12	Commencement
Sunday	13	Professors' deadline to submit spring 2018 final grades

Final Exam Schedules Spring 2018

	4 May (Fr)	7 May (Mn)	8 May (Tu)	9 May (Wd)	10 May (Th)
08:30-11:30	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00	Mn classes that meet at 11:00 & 11:30	Tu classes that meet at 9:30	Tu classes that meet at 8:00
12:00-15:00	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00 & 12:30	Tu classes that meet at 12:30
15:30-18:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30
19:00-22:00	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 18:30 & 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---