



University of the Philippines Visayas
Division of Social Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

Political Science 193
(*Modern Political Theory*)

Instructor: Prof Brian C. Ventura
Term: Second Semester AY 2011-2012
Class Meeting: TF 11:30-1:00 Room: CAS R 205
Consultation Hours: MTh 10:00-11:30, 1:00-3:30, T F 4:00-5:00 or by appointment
Prerequisite: None Section:1 Credits: 3 Units
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He that is to govern a whole nation must read in himself, not this or that particular man, but mankind...
.....*Hobbes*

If you want to have peace of mind, have faith. If you want to be a disciple of truth, search.
.....*Nietzsche*

General Course Description:

This course will endeavor to understand selected modern political theories from Machiavelli to Nietzsche.

Prerequisites:

It is necessary that students who will enroll in this subject have a good sense of, if not interest in world history. This is needed so students could visualize the time and space of the thinkers and their ideas to help in further comprehension. It is also important that students have interest in astutely dissecting voluminous readings to uncover the thoughts buried behind the philosophers' works.

Course Objective:

What is the purpose of reading, carefully understanding and applying the ideas of political thinkers who lived centuries ago, to a student of political science? There are many reasons. One reason is that the importance of ideas and topics that they have presented transcends the boundary of time and space. Another is the manner of their presentation of these ideas. By manner I pertain to the seemingly impenetrable way they structured their arguments that lead them into a certain conclusion about issues that are of central importance to the study and practice of politics, during their time and even today. As much as we would attempt to provide answers to some of the points that the philosophers raised, it is correspondingly important to ask intelligent and intelligible questions for us to probe deeper into their ideas. What do they hope to achieve by the articulation of ideas and practical (or probably impractical) prescription that they have provided? These will be the interest of the class in this course.

More importantly this course will go beyond merely repeating and verbalizing the ideas of these thinkers. The class will be introduced into thinking that philosophers' ideas are product of the investigation and interpretation of the condition where they are contextualized. The class will be conducted in a manner where everybody's task at hand is to participate, and hopefully contribute, in the continuous examination and construction and/or destruction of the spectacles employed in the study of politics.

Specifically the course will endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

- identify and understand the key concepts (*like human nature, liberty, equality, democracy, justice, domination, power, revolution and relationships between individual and society and government and economy*) that the thinkers tried to address
- locate the thinkers and their ideas of in their respective historical and spatial context
- explore the contemporary forms, applications and impacts of the thinkers' ideas
- develop among students the skill of articulating, constructing and critiquing arguments based on the works of the political thinkers

Assessment Scheme:

Assessment of students' performance will be based on the following;

Components	Grade percentage
Class participation	20%
Final Paper	30%
Comprehensive Exam	30%
Quizzes and Assignment	20%
Total grade	100%

Class Participation: It is expected that students are prepared when coming to class every meeting. This means that he/she has read, reread, and dissected the assigned reading/s before entering the class. Coming to class means you are interested to contribute and learn in classroom activities. Class time will not be wasted by discussing the basic details in the assigned reading/s that could be understood by students upon reading. Participation in discussion means raising pertinent and well-grounded points or questions and not merely reading the book in front of your teacher and classmates. Names will be called based on random picking from the class list, unless there are volunteers. It should be noted that class participation includes not only answering but also asking pertinent and discussion worthy questions. You will also engage in informal debates and argumentation. Therefore skills in construction, defense, and offense of argument are important. However, it is imperative that exchange of ideas should always be in a cordial and non-antagonistic manner. If you disagree to a certain idea, disagree in an agreeable manner.

Quizzes and Assignments: Quizzes are not announced. They are given to check whether you have done your reading assignments or not. It is always in essay form. Assignments will be given either individually or as a group. It is important that when group assignments are given you should thoroughly discuss it with your co-members. Make sure that the group has understood both the instruction and the output expected. Quizzes can be given to only one member of the group but the score will be credited for the whole. Peer learning is a valuable learning strategy. You should learn how to practice it.

Final Paper: Students will be asked to submit a final paper as an assessment of how they employ the theory in analyzing particular political phenomenon, or as an evaluation of how they can effectively integrate concepts, construct arguments and communicate ideas in writing. Generally, the paper is expected to fall in at least one of these categories;

- a.) pointing out anomalies or contradiction on the ideas or concepts that the philosopher developed, and proposing how to resolve or to clarify this anomaly or contradiction;
- b.) comparing or contrasting the ideas of two or more thinkers and developing assessment criteria for judging who has a better position;
- c.) examining the historical, social or political context that can help better explain the ideas of the philosopher;
- d.) proposing a more contemporary understanding of certain ideas and or concept raised by philosophers discussed in class
- e.) assessing the contemporary usefulness or the decline in popularity of the concepts or proposals advanced by the philosopher/s

The Final Paper must be submitted in three formats, a hard copy, a soft copy in Microsoft word or its Linux Open Office equivalent, and a PDF copy. The paper should be from 4,000 to 5,000 words in length, in Times New Roman (font size 11-12) or its Open Office equivalent. It must have a minimum of ten cited sources. Use in text citation in crediting your sources (ex. Ebenstein 2000, 234 or Ebenstein 2000). For the list of cited literature format see the reference section of this course outline.

The soft copies are to be submitted to the email address provided above. Follow this format in labeling your file attachment: Course, Surname, Title (ex. Pol. Sci. 193-Reyes; The Utility of Religion According to Machiavelli). Use this labeling format for both the Word and PDF files. In many cases, mislabeled paper would either end up in my junk mailbox or bounce back to the sender. If you are not careful about labeling your paper you may end up missing the deadline or sending corrupted files.

Take note of the following important dates for the Final Paper;

End of Consultation for the Topic Outline: February 24, 2011, Friday, on or before 5:00 pm;

Due date for the Soft Copy of the Final Paper (both Word and PDF): March 12, 2011, Monday, on or before 12 noon.

Due date for the Final Paper (Hard Copy): March 12, 2011, Monday, on or before 5:00 pm.

Be reminded that it is highly unlikely that your topic outlines will be approved after the first consultation. It is therefore expected that by the time of the deadline for consultation all topic outlines have already undergone from two to four revisions.

Comprehensive Examination: The comprehensive exam may either be a written or oral exam. After discussing the readings students' understanding and ability to analyze and evaluate the basic concepts discussed in the class will be assessed in a comprehensive examination. Students are expected to provide appropriate explanation and defense of their answers articulately. It is important that you will carefully understand the instructions for the exam because failure to follow the instruction will result to a grade of 5. The schedule of the examination will be announced near the end of the term. Depending on time availability, the exam may last from 30 minutes to 1 hour if it is an oral exam. Alternatively, if it is a written exam, either a separate schedule will be arranged or the class can follow the arrangement done by the office of the college secretary.

For effective studying take note of *three levels of familiarity* that you will need know in order to succeed in the examination. The First Level is familiarity of the concepts, arguments and proposals of a philosopher and how they relate with each other. The Second Level is familiarity of how ideas of various philosophers relate with each other, be it obvious similarity, implied agreement or direct opposition. The Third Level is familiarity of how the ideas of the philosophers relate with their own milieu and with the issues and problems facing the study and practice of politics today.

Rating Scale and Grading Policy: Since due dates are nonnegotiable no grade of "INC" will be given in this class. Those who are unable to submit the requirement/s in due time will have a corresponding grade of "5.0" for that specific component. Conversion of the percentage grade into the final grade will be according to the following matrix;

Percentage	Final Grade Equivalent
100%	1.0
95-99%	1.25
90-94%	1.5
85-89%	1.75
80-84%	2.0
75-79%	2.25
70-74%	2.5
65-69%	2.75
60-64%	3.0
55-59%	4.0
54% and below	5.0

General Class Rules:

Attendance and Tardiness: Students with more than six unexcused absences will be automatically given a grade of five (5) unless he or she has formally dropped the course. It is the responsibility of the students to apply for dropping, not the course instructor’s prerogative. Arriving ten minutes (10 min.) after the start of the class is considered late. Arriving half an hour after the start of the class is considered absent. Three late marks are equivalent to one absent mark. Being absent on the previous meeting/s means that it is your responsibility to review the discussion on the day/s when you were absent.

Rule for Mobile Phones: Mobile phones should be set in silent mode inside the class. If you need to make an important SMS, MMS conversation, or phone call, you should excuse yourself from the class and conduct your business outside.

Due Dates: Submission schedules for this class should be promptly observed. Late submissions of assigned works will not be accepted. It will be helpful if you finish and print assigned papers at least 24 hours before the due time. Try to be updated with any possible change of schedule so you won’t be confused with the exact due date. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor if you are confused about schedules or formats of any assigned work. It is better to be sure than sorry.

Class Discussion: Names will be called based on random picking from the class list. Once your name is called the right and the duty to contribute to class discussion is yours. Refrain from asking impertinent, pointless, and elementary questions for you may only annoy the class and disturb the momentum of the discussion. Language is not a barrier for articulating ideas so long as mutual understanding is guaranteed. It is however highly encouraged that class discussions is to be conducted in English.

Student Responsibility: It is expected that students are reading and understanding the literatures assigned to or pertinent with the topic before coming to class. The role of the instructor is only to assess students’ performance. Grades are not made but only

calculated by the course instructor based on the set of given provided by the students' performance.

Course Schedule: The discussion will follow the sequence provided in the topic outline. In case of any unforeseeable and unavoidable interruptions a substitution class or alternative activity will be scheduled in a mutually convenient and feasible time and place.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense punishable by a grade of 5.0 or expulsion. Students are expected to observe proper rules in citing sources and to provide appropriate credits to borrowed ideas. Cheating during examination and quizzes will also be subject to similar rules.

Consultation: In case you are not available during the consultation hours indicated here you could arrange for an alternative schedule ahead of time. During consultation only the group or the person consulting is allowed inside the faculty room. You should wait outside if the instructor is not yet around or if it is not yet your turn for consultation. Observe proper decorum when you are inside the faculty room.

Points for better learning experience in this class:

On dealing with the literature: Not all the literatures are easy to comprehend. In order to better understand what the philosophers mean you need to read and reread their works. Reading it once is obviously insufficient. It will also be helpful if you consult various sources for different interpretations of the text. However, reading the interpretation of other authors must not be treated as a substitute to reading the original text. The list of references provided in this outline is not exhaustive. The library and the world wide web have more books and other literatures that can help you in achieving the objectives of this class. The supplementary articles provided below may be useful for your paper. Inform the class instructor ahead of time if you need a copy.

Always have with you a dictionary to help in defining words and concepts in the philosophers' texts that are still unfamiliar to you. It is wrong to assume that by repeatedly reading a concept that you can't understand you will eventually get its meaning. Having such an assumption will prevent you from understanding some key concepts that are being addressed by a philosopher's work. Remember that the goal of the class is to comprehend and analyze the theories and not just reread and repeat it.

About the Class Paper and other written assignment: Let the following serve as your guide in writing your paper. Demonstrate in your paper that you have thoroughly read and comprehended the assigned readings, cited literatures and classroom discussion. Organize your paper properly. Take note of the flow of ideas. Present an argument and demonstrate insights and capacity to evaluate and synthesize ideas. Show interrelationships, explain cause-and-effect and incorporate a thorough library research. Lastly, submit a neatly written paper free from grammatical and spelling errors, and ball point pen and whiteout corrections. To avoid loss of file save it in multiple disks and e-mail it to your address so you could check it anywhere you go with Internet connection.

Topic Outline

November

Topic

17, 22, 24 and
29

I. Introductory Lecture

- A. On Studying Political Philosophy
 1. on the question of canon texts
 2. feminism, marxism and postmodernism
- B. Political Philosophy and Political Theory
 1. the relationship of empirical social science and the political philosophy

December

Topic

2, 6, 9 and 16

II. Niccolo Machiavelli

- A. Introduction
- B. The Prince and the Discourses
 1. the art of politics
 2. the political value of religion
 3. the liberation of Italy
 4. the establishment and maintenance of Rome
- C. Institution Building in the *Discourse*
 1. Books I, the republic, religion, reforms and continuity
 2. Book II, Rome and her neighbors, expansion, collective memory, mercenaries, weak state, and reputation
 3. Book III, *virtu* in difficult and easy times, women, and the prince and the people

January

Topic

3, 6 and 9

III. Thomas Hobbes

- A. Introduction
 - B. The *Leviathan*
 1. the state of nature
 2. the social contract
 3. the commonwealth
 4. rights of the sovereign
 5. liberty of the subject
 6. civil law and natural law
 7. subversive political doctrines
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- 13, 17 and 20 **IV. John Locke**
- A. Introduction
 - B. Two Treatises of Civil Government
 - 1. the state of nature
 - 2. the state of war
 - 3. slavery and property
 - 4. political society
 - 5. the end and limits of government
 - 6. the right to rebel

- 24, 27 and 31 **V. Jean Jacques. Rousseau**
- A. Introduction
 - B. The Social Contract
 - 1. the nature of man
 - 2. the right of the strongest and slavery
 - 3. the first convention of society
 - 4. the social compact
 - 5. the sovereign and the civil state
 - 6. the inalienability and indivisibility of sovereignty
 - 7. the infallibility of the general will and the limits of sovereign power
 - 8. law and the legislator
 - 9. the people and government in general
 - 10. democracy, deputies or representatives and voting

February

Topic

- 3, and 7 **VI. Adam Smith**
- A. Introduction
 - B. The Wealth of the Nations
 - 1. the division of labor
 - 2. economic value
 - 3. role of the government

- 10, 14 and 17 **VII. G.F.W. Hegel**
- A. The Philosophy of Law
 - 1. freedom in nature and society
 - 2. monarchial versus popular government
 - 3. peace and war
 - B. Philosophy of History
 - 1. The Germans-the climax of world history and world spirit

February 24, 2011, Friday, on or before 5:00 pm-due for topic consultation

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- 21, 24 and 28 **VIII. Marx and Engels**
- A. Introduction
 - B. The Communist Manifesto
 - 1. bourgeois and proletariats
 - 2. proletarians and communists socialist and communist literature

March

Topic

- 2, 6 and 9 **IX. Friedrich Nietzsche**
- A. Introduction
 - B. The Antichrist
 - 1. revaluation of all values
 - 2. attempts at a critique of Christianity
 - C. The Genealogy of Morals

March 12, 2011, Monday due for final paper (12nn for soft copy, 5pm for hard copy)

- 13 and 16 **X. Concluding Discussion**
- A. In Defense of Politics
 - B. Political Theory and Political Philosophy

References:

Primary Texts:

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Supplementary articles:

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- Baumgold, Deborah. "Hobbe's and Locke's Contract Theories: Political not Metaphysical," *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, Vol. 8, No. 3, September 2005
- Bryson, Valerie. "Marxism and feminism: Can the 'unhappy marriage' be saved?" *Journal of Political Ideologies*, Vol. 9, No. 1, February 2004
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- Putterman, Ethan. "Rousseau on the People as Legislative Gatekeeper, Not Framers," *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 99, No. 1, February 2005
- Sabl, Andrew. "Community Organizing as a Tocquevillean Politics: The Art, Practice, and Ethos of Association," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 46, No. 1, January 2002
- Scott, John T. "Rousseau's Anti-Agenda-Setting Agenda and Contemporary Democratic Theory," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 99, No. 1, February 2005
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