

POT 6505
Politics & Theory

Fall 2013
W 8-10 (3:00 – 6:00 pm)
AND 101

Professor Schirmer

Office Hours: M 10-11 and T 10:00 – 12:00, AND 205

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Course Description:

This course familiarizes advanced students with the main themes of Political Theory. Its target audience is students who study Political Science empirically; its purpose is to convince students of the usefulness of the theoretical discourse for empirical Political Science (and, ultimately, to narrow the gap that has, regrettably, opened up between Theory and the empirical fields in our discipline). The course will be taught in a seminar format; it will live (and die) with students' willingness to participate and make the course their own.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Two presentations/papers on weekly readings – 30%.
Papers written in preparation for discussion will have to be submitted to the entire class at least 24 hrs before our weekly class meeting (i.e no later than Tuesday afternoon)
2. Class participation and discussion (including forum) – 20%.
3. Final exam or term paper– 50%
Final exam will be a 48-hour take home exam. Students will be able to select two questions from a number of prompts. Each response should be 8-10 pages in length. Alternatively, students can opt to write a term paper. Term papers are expected to be about 30 pages in length. Students who which to write a paper instead of the final exam should discuss their plans with me as early as possible, but no later than the week following spring break.

Course Outline:

August 21 Introduction

Power

August 28 Rulers and Ruled (the Question of Legitimacy): Lorenzetti's "Allegoria ed effete del Buono e del Cattivo Governo" in Siena

Wolin, chapter 1; Nicolai Rubinstein, "Political Ideas in Sienese Art: The Frescoes by Ambrogio Lorenzetti and Taddeo di Bartolo in the Palazzo Pubblico," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 21, No. 3/4 (Jul. - Dec., 1958), pp. 179-207; Quentin Skinner, "Lorenzetti's Buon Governo Frescoes: Two Old Questions, Two New Answers," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 62 (1999), pp. 1-28.

September 4 After Community/Community Reconstituted: Social Contracts

Wolin, chapter 8 and chapter 9, I-V; Hobbes, *Leviathan*, book One, chapter 13-16 and book Two, chapter 17-19, 21; Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book One and Book Two, I-VI.

September 11 Sovereignty

Jean Bodin, *On Sovereignty: Six Books On the Commonwealth*, Books I and VI, 6; Julian H. Franklin, *Jean Bodin and the Rise of Absolutist Theory*, Cambridge 1973; Kofi Annan, "Two Concepts of Sovereignty," *The Economist*, Sep 18, 1999. [Further Reading: A. London Fell, *Origins of Legislative Sovereignty and the Legislative State*, 3 volumes, especially vol. III (Boston, 1983)]

September 18 Sovereignty: Limit Cases

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*; Giorgio Agamben, *State of Exception*.

September 25 Liberty / Liberalism

Wolin, chapter 9, I - V; John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*; John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*; Isaiah Berlin, *Two Concepts of Liberty*; Quentin Skinner, *The Paradoxes of Political Liberty* (The Tanner Lecture on Human Values, 1984).

October 2 no class

October 9 Capitalism (via Marx)

Wolin, chapter 12; Karl Marx, excerpts from *German Ideology and Grundrisse* (The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. by Robert C. Tucker).

October 16 Feminism

Carole Pateman, *The Sexual Contract*; Carole Pateman, "Self-Ownership and Property in the Person: Democratization and a Tale of Two Concepts"; Jane Mansbridge and Susan Moller Okin, "Feminism".

October 23 Critical Race Theory

Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (Ithaca, NY, Cornell University Press, 1997).

Purpose

October 30 "The State as Instrument"/ "the State as End"

Wolin, chapter 7; Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*; Giovanni Botero, *On the Reason of State* (excerpts).

November 6 Justice

Wolin, chapter 15; John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, chapters I – III.

November 13 Democracy

Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*; Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*, chapters 7.1. and 7.2; Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, chapters 1 and 2.

November 20 Welfare

T.H. Marshall, *Citizenship and Social Class*; Claus Offe, *Contradictions of the Welfare State*; John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, chapter V.

November 27 no class

December 4 Theorizing Power After/Against the State

Wolin, chapter 16 and 17; Michael Hardt and Toni Negri, *Empire*, Part II; Charles Tilly, *Predictions* (3 emails written after Sep 11, 2001; find it at <http://essays.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/tilly.htm>)