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Spring 2008  
Office Hours: 2:30 -3:30 WF  
2:00 – 3:30 TR  
or by appointment

## PH/PS 202: History of Western Political Thought II

**Description:** This course surveys the political writings of thinkers in the Western tradition from Hobbes to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These include Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx and Engels, Niebuhr, Rawls, Hospers, MacIntyre, and Taylor.

**Objectives:** At the completion of this course students will have demonstrated

- an understanding of the major political ideas of philosophers in the Western tradition.
- the ability to apply alternative political frameworks in understanding issues involved in current political debates.
- the ability to read difficult prose, write clearly and persuasively, and think critically.

**Format:** Course format will be lecture and discussion, with students being assigned to present some of the material.

**Exams:** Exam questions will be short and long answer essays. A block of questions will be handed out prior to exams and the actual exam drawn from the block. There are no surprises. As a result, the quality of answers should be higher than on exams where the questions are not known in advance. Answers will be graded for mechanical correctness, paragraph development, knowledge of the material covered in the class, and level of support for ideas.

**Grades:**

Two one-hour exams	200 pts.
Paper Outline and Thesis	100 pts.
One critical paper	200 pts.
Comprehensive final	300 pts.
Presentations and classroom participation	200 pts.

To receive an "A" students need 900 pts., 800 for a "B", 700 for a "C", and 600 for a "D".

**Paper:** Papers will be critical papers each with the following parts: an introduction and thesis, supporting evidence and arguments, possible criticisms or objections and replies, and a conclusion. They should be 6 to 8 pages in length. Outlines will follow the format of LA 101/102. If you are rusty, consult Chapter Seven of *Reasoning and Writing*. Topics include any issues, philosophical problems, or the philosophy of any person or topic covered in this class. These include the following: What is a just distribution of wealth? Which vision of human good is most reasonable? Is the libertarian critique of liberalism valid? Do we owe reparations to the Indians and slaves? Problems with \_\_\_\_\_'s political theory.

**Texts:** Jonathan Wolff, *Why Read Marx Today?*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Reinhold Niebuhr, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. New York, Charles Scribner and Sons, 1960 edition.

*Primary Readings in the History of Political Philosophy*, ed. Hatcher

### **Statement of Disability Resources**

- ☐ Any student who feels he or she may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should feel free to contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. You should also contact Cindy Novelo, Coordinator of Disability Resources, at ext. 349 in the Learning Resource Center on the lower level of Collins Library.
- ☐ If you have a disability that requires academic adjustments, please make an appointment with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible. You should also meet with Cindy Novelo, Coordinator of Disability Resources, to arrange accommodations for this course.
- ☐ Students with documented disabilities that will affect their work in this class should contact the LRC to discuss their needs. You should meet with Cindy Novelo, Coordinator of Disability Resources, to arrange for accommodations for this course.

**FYI:** This course counts as a “foundation” course for the International Studies major. For more information about the International Studies major, contact Dr. Ryan K. Beasley at ext. 423 or by email at <[ryan.beasley@bakeru.edu](mailto:ryan.beasley@bakeru.edu)>.

### **Classical Roots of Contractarian Political Philosophy**

Wednesday, January 23 - Introduction to the course  
Friday, January 25 – Hobbes, “Leviathan,” Readings.

Monday, January 28 –  
Wednesday, January 30, –  
Friday, February 1 - Locke, “Two Treatises of Government,” Readings

Monday, February 4, –  
Wednesday, February 6 – Jean-Jacque Rousseau, “On the Social Contract,” Readings.  
Friday, February 8-

Monday, February 11 -  
Wednesday, February 13 -Ward Churchill, “Perversions of Justice: A Native American Examination of The Doctrine of U.S. Rights,” on reserve.

Friday, February 15 - Review

Monday, February 18 – **Exam #1**

### **Utilitarianism**

Wednesday, February 20 - Mill, “On Liberty,” Readings.  
Friday, February 22 -

Monday, February 25 - Mill, "Utilitarianism," Readings  
Wednesday, February 27 -

### **Socialist Theories**

Friday, February 29 -.Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto" Readings .

Monday, March 3 - Wolff, *Why Read Marx Today?*  
Wednesday, March 5 –  
Friday, March 7 –

March 10 – 14 **SPRING BREAK**

### **The Liberal/Libertarian Debate**

Monday, 17 --John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness," Readings .  
Wednesday, March 19 –

Friday, March 21 – Good Friday  
Monday, March 24 – John Hospers, "The Libertarian Manifesto," Readings

### **Communitarian Challenges to Liberalism**

Wednesday, March 26 –

Friday, March 28 – Alasdair MacIntyre, "The Privatization of the Good," on reserve  
Monday, March 31 –

Wednesday, April 2 – Charles Taylor, "Atomism," on reserve.  
Friday, April 4 –

Monday April 7 – Rieman, "Liberalism and Its Critics," Handout.  
Wednesday, April 9 –

Friday, April 11 – **Exam #2**

### **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

Monday, April 14 – Niebuhr, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, Ch.1-  
Wednesday, April 16, – Niebuhr, Ch. 2.  
Friday, April 18 – Niebuhr, Ch. 3.

Monday, April 21 –Niebuhr, Ch. 4. (**Outlines Due**)  
Wednesday, April 23 – Niebuhr, Ch. 5.  
Friday, April 25 – Niebuhr, Ch. 6

Monday, April 28 – Niebuhr, Ch. 7.  
Wednesday, April 30 – Niebuhr, Ch 8. **Papers Due**  
Friday, May 2 Niebuhr Ch. 9.

Monday, May 5 – Niebuhr, Ch. 10, Final Review

Monday May 12, Comprehensive Final Exam 1:00 -4:00

## OUTLINE EVALUATION SHEET

1. Thesis and reasons: (10)  
Clear, manageable, w/ sufficient reasons and major objections
2. Support (30)  
Arguments are clear and adequately support thesis.  
Evidence is sufficient to support all claims.
3. Objections and replies (20)  
No obvious objections are omitted.  
Replies adequately answer the objections.
4. Bibliography (20)  
Sources are numerous enough to satisfy the requirements for the project.  
Sources show an honest evaluation of the issue.  
Sources are reputable.  
Proper MLA or APA format is followed

## Critical Paper Evaluation Sheet

1. **Adequacy of introduction of the issue** (summary of issue and establishes its importance): **5 points.**
2. **Clarity of thesis** (objection-position-reasons) **and important concepts: 10 points**
3. **Quality of support and argumentation** (evidence, quotes from relevant texts, etc.): **20 points**
4. **Quality of objections** (to position and/or arguments) **and replies: 20 points**
5. **Grammar, spelling, and punctuation:** fragments, run-ons, comma splice, noun/pronoun agreement, subject-verb agreement, apostrophe use, sexist language: **10 points**
6. **Quality of expression:** clarity, paragraph development, transitions, word choice, syntax etc. **20 points**
7. **Originality of ideas:** Not a commonplace thesis, objections were substantive and hard to answer well, or a clever critique of a position. **10 points**
8. **Quality of research:** number and quality of sources, integration of research into paper. **10 points**

All papers should contain the following parts: an introduction to the issue to be treated concluding with your thesis, arguments to support your thesis, objections and replies to the objections, and a summation and conclusion. Papers should be four to six pages. Proper documentation is required and may be MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style.

