

## Political Science 2103 Introduction to Political Theory

Spring 2009

Lecture: 2150 Coleman Hall

MWF: 10:00-10:50

Kevin Anderson, Instructor

Office: Coleman Hall 2335

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appointment

Office Phone: (217) 581-2619

E-mail: [kranderson@eiu.edu](mailto:kranderson@eiu.edu)

Course Description This course introduces students to the subfield of political theory and it provides an overview of the approaches to the study of political ideas. The course also explores the ideas and ideologies that frame our contemporary social and political debates.

### Required Texts:

Hoffman and Graham **Introduction to Political Theory** Longman Publishers 2006

Thiele, Leslie Paul **Thinking Politics: Perspectives in Ancient, Modern, and Postmodern Political Theory** 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chatham House Publishers 2004

Class Attendance: Your attendance will be critical to your success. If you must miss a class, it will be your responsibility to obtain any missed lecture notes; I will not go over lecture material again. **Special Note:** The format of this class lends itself to open class discussion and I welcome all relevant insights into the topic of the day however, I do not want the class to be dominated by one person, or reduced to a shouting match. Come prepared to discuss the topic of the day (and only that) by reading the assigned materials.

\* Please respect your classmates by turning off all Cell Phones and other electronic devices when you enter class and leaving them off until class ends.

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to the class in which a topic will be discussed. Some material for this course may be placed on reserve and assigned during specific sections of the course. I will instruct the class on any reading assignments not listed in the syllabus.

Paper: There will be a short paper assigned for the course in which you will select an ideological tradition and discuss the primary ideas presented and the influence of that ideology in history. This paper will be short (3-7 pages in length; preferably typed) and graded according to the understanding of the ideology and the strength, originality, and coherence of the argument presented. It will be worth 100 points.

**NOTE: Any paper turned in after the listed deadline will lose one letter grade for each class period that it is late.**

Exams: There will be three (3) exams in this class; two exams given during the term and a final exam worth 100 points each. The exams may contain essays, short answers, and identification questions. I will discuss the format of the exam before it is administered.

Make-Up Exams: Make-Up Exams will be given only when a valid excuse has been presented. Please notify your Instructor as soon as possible if you miss an exam.

Academic Honesty: Anyone caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper will receive an 'F' for that exam or paper and will be reported to university administrators for disciplinary action. In short: DON'T CHEAT!

Learning Disabilities/Special Needs: Students with disabilities who require special accommodation are encouraged to meet with the Instructor during the first week of class. If you need any special assistance to learn in this class, please notify me and steps will be taken to assist you. For further assistance or information, please contact the EIU Office of Disability Services at 581-6583.

Important Dates to Remember:

January 26, 2009-Last day to drop a course without a grade

April 3, 2009-Last day to withdraw from a course

February 11, 2009-First Exam

March 27, 2009-Second Exam

May 4, 2009-Final Exam

## **Week 1: Introduction**

### *What is Political Theory?*

Thiele: Chapter 1; Chapter 6 (Pages 163-181)

## **Week 2: Conceptual Definitions I: Visions**

### *Human Nature, Power and the State*

Thiele: Chapter 2

Hoffman & Graham: Chapter 1

## **Weeks 3 & 4: Conceptual Definitions II: Values**

### *Freedom, Equality and Justice*

Thiele: Chapter 3; Chapter 6 (Pages 200-215)

Hoffman & Graham: Chapters 2-4

### **Exam 1: February 11, 2009**

## **Weeks 5 & 6: Political Systems and Ideas I**

### *Citizenship, Democracy, Liberalism and Conservatism*

Hoffman & Graham: Chapters 5-8

Thiele: Chapter 5 (Pages 100-139)

## **Weeks 7 & 8: Political Systems and Ideas II**

### *Socialism and Fascism*

Hoffman & Graham: Chapters 9 & 12

Thiele: Chapter 5 (Pages 139-153)

## **Weeks 9 & 10: Political Systems and Ideas III**

### *Nationalism and Anarchism*

Hoffman & Graham: Chapters 10-11

### **Spring Break March 16-20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Exam 2 March 27, 2009**

## **Weeks 11, 12, & 13: Politics and Contemporary Ideas**

### *Feminism, Multiculturalism and Fundamentalism*

Hoffman & Graham: Chapters 13, 14 & 16

**Week 14: Contemporary Ideas and Political Actions**

*Terrorism, Human Rights and Civil Disobedience*

Thiele: Chapter 7

Hoffman & Graham: Chapters 18-20

**Week 15: Summary and Review**

**Papers Due: April 24, 2009**

***Final Exam May 4<sup>th</sup> 10:15-12:15***