

POLS 3351-01 | Fall 2017
Social and Political Philosophy

Dr. Marcus E. Hendershot,
Assistant Professor

Schreiner University
School of Liberal Arts

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Class Hours

Monday:

Tuesday:

12:15pm to 1:30pm-Weir 202

Wednesday:

Thursday:

12:15pm to 1:30pm-Weir 202

Friday:

Office Hours

Monday:

10:00am to 11:30am

Tuesday:

11:00am to Noon

Wednesday

10:00am to 11:30am

Thursday:

11:00am to Noon

Friday:

8:00am to 9:00am

I. Course Description

This course offers an overview of the literature associated with the field of political theory. Temporally speaking, we will reach all the way back to the earliest origins of Grecian society, transition to the seminal foundations of American political thought, and progress all the way forward to contemporary views of justice and current global dilemmas.

The extensive temporal scope of this material, and its generally inscrutable nature, make for a challenging semester. Students can, and do, tend to *lose it* when they confront the layers of penumbras and conflicting assumptions that underpin authors' arguments. Simply put, it can be very frustrating to read and comprehend these different works.

Thus, it is important that we start with some realistic expectations for our eventual level of performance. First, you will not be an expert in political theory by the end of this semester. It would take numerous courses, with much better professors, to accomplish that type of ability. At a more reasonable level, it is possible for us to develop a working knowledge of seminal theorists/theories and to be able to consider how these abstract thoughts relate to the concrete problems we witness and experience daily. That type of referencing ability, connection-making, and analytical focus is where we want to be at the end of this semester.

Our learning objectives are four-fold this semester:

- 1) Gain a reference knowledge of the political theory literature
- 2) Develop analytical skills that allow us to apply abstract theories to concrete problems
- 3) Develop the research skills necessary to frame a current policy-debate or controversy
- 4) Learn how to cogently communicate the knowledge gained in the course

You can and will get frustrated with the material this semester. However if you stick with it, you will begin to understand how these abstract thoughts are connected to real world collective action problems that must be resolved in functioning societies. That type of knowledge has real value.

II. Required Text and Readings

The following text is required and will act as a general resource for course lectures and topics:

Schumaker, Paul. 2010. *The Political Theory Reader*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

ISBN: 9781405189965

This text will be supplemented with topical readings from newspapers, journals, and books. These materials will be made available to students in Adobe PDF format through the Schreiner ONE system, which provides a web-based resource for the course that will act as the current calendar of readings/lectures:

Schreiner ONE

<https://info.schreiner.edu/ICS/>

Help Desk: (830) 792-7344

III. Calendar of Topics

Thursday	08/24/2017	<u>Lecture</u> Introduction to the Course
Tuesday	08/29/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> The Ancient Greeks Plato, "The Theory of Forms" (p.104) <u>Drop / Add Deadline</u>
Thursday	08/31/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Aristotle, "The Natural Origins of Political Associations" (p.153)
Tuesday	09/05/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Social Contract Theories Thomas Hobbes, "The Natural Condition of Mankind" (p.131) Thomas Hobbes, "The Contractual Origins of Society" (p.155)
Thursday	09/07/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> John Locke, "The Second Treatise of Government" (p.31) John Locke, "A Letter Concerning Toleration" (p.259) Edmond Burke, "The Great Primaevael Contract of Eternal Society" (p.158)

Tuesday	09/12/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Utility and Ideological Constructs Jeremy Bentham, "Of the Principle of Utility" (p.171) Paul Star, "Why Liberalism Works" (p.60) John Kekes, "A case for Conservatism" (p.65)
Thursday	09/14/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> John Stuart Mill, "Of the Ultimate Sanction of the Principle of Utility" (available on S1) Judith Shklar, "Political Ideology" (p.9)
Friday	09/15/2017	<u>Social Contracts Assignment due</u>
Tuesday	09/19/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> American Political Origins & Thought Jean Jacques Rousseau, "On the General Will" (p.111) Edmund Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (p.38)
Thursday	09/21/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> James Madison, "The Federalist No. 10" (p.193) James Madison, "The Federalist No. 51" (available on S1) <u>4 Week Grades Due</u>
Tuesday	09/26/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Richard Hofstadter, "The Founding Fathers: An Age of Realism: (available on S1) Herbert J. Storing, "Slavery and the Moral Foundations of the American Republic" (available on S1)
Thursday	09/28/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty" (p.240) C.B. MacPherson, "The Early Liberal Model of Man" (p.133)
Tuesday	10/03/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> [open date / material TBA]
Thursday	10/05/2017	<u>Midterm Examination</u>
Tuesday	10/10/2017	<u>Fall Break</u>

Thursday	10/12/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Capitalism & Political Economy Charles Darwin, "Natural Selection" (p.118) Adam Smith, "The Principles and Virtues of Free Markets" (p.242) Midterm Grades Due
Tuesday	10/17/2017	<u>Lecture / Film</u> Theodore J. Lowi, "America's Old and New Public Philosophy" (p.11) PBS, <i>The Supreme Court – A New Kind of Justice (disk 2)</i>
Thursday	10/19/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" (p.295) William Riker, "Liberalism, Populism, and the Theory of Public Choice" (p.283)
Tuesday	10/24/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Critiques of Capitalism and The Cold War Karl Marx, "Estranged Labor" (p.137) Freidrich Engles, "Marx's Materialist Conception of History" (p.115)
Thursday	10/26/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Karl Marx & Friedrich Engles, "The Communist Manifesto" (p.40) Vladimir I. Lenin, "State and Revolution" (p.53) Drop Deadline
Tuesday	10/31/2017	<u>Film</u> Errol Morris, <i>The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara</i>
Thursday	11/02/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Giovanni Gentile, "The Philosophic Basis of Fascism" (p.58)
Tuesday	11/07/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Perspectives on Justice John Rawls, "The Rationality and Motivations of Parties in the Original Position" (p.142) John Rawls, "A Kantian Conception of Equality" (p.320)

Thursday	11/09/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Irving Kristol, "A Capitalist Conception of Justice" (p.325) Robert Nozick, "The Entitlement Theory" (p.330)
Tuesday	11/14/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Citizenship and the Challenge of Diversity Michael Walzer, "The Distribution of Membership" (p.213) Joseph H. Carens, "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders" (p.216)
Thursday	11/16/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Betty Freidan, "The Problem that Has No Name" (available on S1) Susan Moller Okin, "Justice, Gender, and the Family" (p.82)
Tuesday	11/21/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (p.343) Barack Obama, "A More Perfect Union" (available on S1)
Thursday	11/23/2017	<u>Thanksgiving Holiday</u>
Tuesday	11/28/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> The Decline of Nations & Contemporary Issues Edward Gibbon, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" (available on S1) Niccolo Machiavelli, "The Threat Posed by Corrupt Citizens" (p.236)
Thursday	11/30/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Robert D. Putnam, "The Strange Disappearance of Civic America" (p.249) Bill Gates, "The Information Age" (available on S1) Southern Poverty Law Center, "Officers Murdered Across U.S. in Wave of Extremist Violence" (available on S1)
Tuesday	12/05/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> Micahel Hardt and Antonio Negri, "Globalization and Democracy" (p.92) Imam Khomeini, "Islamic Government" (p.255) Arne Naess, "The Environmental Crisis and the Deep Ecology Movement" (p.87)

Thursday	12/07/2017	<u>Lecture / Discussion</u> [open date / material TBA]
Friday	12/08/2017	<u>Final Examination</u> 4:00pm to 6:00pm

IV. Course Requirements / Grading

Roughly half of the final course grade will be associated with a midterm and final exam. These exams will comprise of fixed answer (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, matching, or diagram questions) and open answer questions (e.g., short answer or essay questions). In addition to these two examinations, we will have a short paper assignment and a longer analytical paper. The first will be a short written assignment related to social contract theory. The analytical paper will require you to select one of the theoretical frameworks covered this semester and apply it to a contemporary policy dispute (e.g., Hardin's *Tragedy of the Commons* and a treaty about global warming).

The remainder of the grade will be attributable to a measure of participation and attendance. The level of the reading assignments for a class like this one has the propensity to grind the class sessions into a painful silence. In order to encourage participation and keep our discussion moving, each individual reading will be assigned to a student who should be prepared to discuss and act as a leader upon it. To be clear, you are responsible for all of the assigned readings, but you will be the primary point of contact on one of them. Your discussion and participation for the assigned reading will be assessed one of four values: 1) Not Present 0%; 2) Present 50%; 3) Prepared 85%; Prepared and Active 100%.

Attendance will also be recorded for each class session. An excused absence will be allowed per university guidelines, *but prior notice is mandatory*. Attendance will begin after the course roster is finalized following the initial drop-add deadline. I will post a complete attendance policy to the online system with additional detail.

Occasionally, a student will be traveling for academic or athletic events during a regularly scheduled examination period. Please contact me the week before the examination, so that we can arrange an alternative time/format.

Students with a documented medical excuse that conflicts with a course assignment should likewise contact me to establish an alternative time for submission / completion. All others that miss an assignment or exam deadline potentially are subject to a late penalty. Typically, I will assess a 5% penalty for each school day that it is delayed.

The breakdown of the course grade will be the following:

	Requirement	Weight
1.	Attendance	7%
2	Discussion Assignments	8%
3.	Social Contract Assignment	14%
4.	Midterm Exam	22%

Numerical	Letter
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D

5.	Analytical Paper	24%
6.	Final Exam	25%
		100%

59-0	F
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V. Policies and Guidelines

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Policies

Activity in this course is subject to the *Schreiner University Code of Academic Conduct* and the *Student Conduct Code*, both of which are located within the *Student Handbook*:

<http://www.schreiner.edu/student-life/student-handbook.aspx>

Schreiner University Code of Academic Conduct (pp. 63-65)

These rules govern the standards and penalties for violations of academic integrity, such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, collusion and other questionable practices. Broadly speaking, an incident of *academic dishonesty* occurs when a student presents another's work (in whole or part) as his or her own. More specifically, *plagiarism* is the act of stealing or using the ideas or written text of another and representing them as one's own.

These types of behaviors can occur within exam answers, research papers, and other course assignments.

You should know that plagiarism and any other forms of cheating will not be tolerated and it will be handled according to the appropriate provision within these university regulations. Student papers are subject to review by a plagiarism checking service (e.g., turnitin.com). Violations will be pursued and may result in an F grade for this course and possible expulsion from the University.

Student Code of Conduct (pp. 38-46)

The *Student Handbook* also addresses more general matters of personal conduct, such as violations of criminal law, fraud, alcohol/drug use, student hazing, and sexual misconduct or violence (see also, Title IX below). Although these particular items are less likely to be encountered within a classroom setting, an issue could present itself. To the extent that this set of policies become relevant, we will abide by the intent and purpose of Schreiner University's *Student Code of Conduct*.

Title IX: Sexual Discrimination/Harassment/Misconduct/Assault

Schreiner University is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from inappropriate conduct based on gender. As required by *Title IX*, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student or employee who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct by another student, member of the faculty or staff, or campus visitor or contractor, to immediately report the incident to any of the individuals or offices listed below:

Sarah Campfield
 Director of Residence Life
 (830) 792-7283
scampfield@schreiner.edu
Dr. Charles Hueber

David Geherels
 Director of Student Activities
 (830) 792-7465
dgeherels@schreiner.edu
Dr. Diana Comuzzie

Dean of Students
 (830) 792-7278
cmhueber@schreiner.edu

Provost & VP for Academic Affairs
 (830) 792-7371
comuzzie@schreiner.edu

Wendy L. Blaettner, PHR
 Director of Human Resource Services
 (830) 792-7375
wblaettner@schreiner.edu

Schreiner University takes acts of sexual violence and sexual harassment seriously. In an effort to comply with the *Violence Against Women Act* and the Office for Civil Rights federal guidelines, all students are required to complete training on sexual violence prevention. Along these lines, you should already be aware of these policies and understand that you are expected to abide by them.

For those who have confidentiality concerns regarding a Title IX report, you should know that faculty and staff are *Mandatory Reporters* under this act. If you discuss a potential violation with a professor, then he or she *must* report it.

You do have a couple of other options for consultation. First, you may take advantage of Schreiner University Counseling Services, which has stronger confidentiality protections. You may also utilize the Campus Conduct Hotline as an anonymous means of reporting questionable conduct:

Kim Woods
 Director of Counseling Services
 Mountaineer Fitness Center | CMB 6220
 (830) 792-7279 | KJWoods@schreiner.edu
<https://www.schreiner.edu/student-life/counseling.aspx>

Campus Conduct Hotline
 (866) 943-5787

Given this course is in the discipline of political science we will throughout the semester be discussing issues and policies that are discomfoting or controversial in some manner. We will make every attempt to take an academic orientation toward these topics, but students and faculty can and do make errors that can be insulting or off putting to others. Feel free to contact me in a confidential manner and we will address any such issue.

Matters of Accommodation

Schreiner University supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and welcomes requests for reasonable accommodation. The University in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or status as a veteran in any of its policies practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services.

Every effort will be made to make accommodations for those who fall under the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* and the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. Students desiring academic adjustments/auxiliary aids should contact:

Dr. Jude Gallik
 Director of Learning Support Services/Section 504 Coordinator
 (830) 792-7258 | jgallik@schreiner.edu

In terms of accommodations and this particular course, please contact me directly and we will handle it in a discrete manner according to University guidelines.

Unanticipated Events, Incomplete Grades & Withdrawals

On some occasions, a student will come down with an extended illness, or get called up for military duty, etc. These situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis and are often resolved through withdrawal from the course or through an incomplete grade agreement between the student, academic advisor and professor. I am extremely reluctant to go forward with an incomplete grade in any course. In the event that a substantive cause is present to do so, we will proceed through the guidelines found in the *Student Handbook*.

Withdrawal from this course will be governed by the University's procedure and applicable deadlines. Students contemplating withdrawing from the university during the term, or not returning after a break, should contact the Registrar. In addition to discussing reasons for withdrawing, it is very important that the withdrawal policy be followed, so that severe financial problems can be avoided. Please refer to the *Schreiner University Catalog* for more information about withdrawals.