I. Course Description: “Development and analysis of political thought from Machiavelli to the present.” (SFA Catalog).

II. Course Objectives: This course is a survey of modern political philosophy. We will begin with Niccolo Machiavelli (late 15th century), and conclude with Friedrich Nietzsche (late 19th century). In between, we shall study several major modern thinkers, including Luther and Calvin; Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau; Hegel and Marx; and Bentham and Mill. Accordingly, the major philosophical perspectives addressed in this class will include: autonomy; possessive or acquisitive individualism; social contract theory; liberalism, historicism, communism, socialism and fascism. This is a philosophically demanding course, so students should expect to do a lot of reading, thinking and responding—critically and interpretively—to the texts. Texts and lectures will be supplemented with writing exercises and classroom discussions.

Program Learning Outcomes: In any given semester, one or more of the following Program Learning Objectives (PLO) for Social and Behavior Sciences may be assessed.

- PLO#4 – “The student will differentiate a range of political systems and/or perspectives."

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the basic principles of modern political thought, with particular reference to individualism, social contract theory, natural rights, and the distinction between government and society.
- Discuss the various modern political ideologies, including communism, socialism and fascism.
- Analyze the impact of the modern revolution in political thinking on modern and contemporary political life.

III. Texts: The following book is required in this class; it is available at the university bookstore:

IV. Assignments and Grades: Your grade in this course will be based on several components, broken down below:

1. **Two Take-home examinations**: a mid-term and a final, each worth 20% of your semester grade [40%].
2. **Five Response Papers**: of which I will count four, making each paper worth 12.5% of your grade [50% total]. You have one amnesty to use at your will. If you submit five essays, I will drop your lowest paper grade. (Alternatively, you may turn in only four essays.) Each paper should be 3-5 pages in length (typed, double-spaced and in 12-point TNR or a similar font).
3. **Question Cards**: When readings have been assigned, you will be required prepare an index card with a question or (thoughtful) comment about the readings, by the beginning of class [10%].

Final grade distribution is as follows:

A=90-99, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=65-69, F=64 and below

V. Attendance and Classroom Decorum

Attendance is required; roll will be taken upon occasion. **Students who miss more than three class meetings may face a 5% reduction for each additional missed meeting.** Absences shall be excused for documented emergencies or official university events (also documented) only.

Mutual respect and consideration are indispensable to the success of any group endeavor. In view of this, I demand the highest standard of conduct in our class. To promote respect for yourself and your fellow students, **please silence and put out of sight** all cell-phones, laptops, blackberries, pagers ipods and other mobile electronic communication or entertainment devices. Please do not pass notes or exchange whispers, either! If you must make a call (or a text) during class-time, kindly exit the classroom to do so, and do not return (you will be counted absent for the day) **unless** you have an exceptionally good excuse (e.g. a documented emergency, death in the family, etc).

**Email Policy:**

I shall endeavor to respond in a timely manner to all emails addressed to bailyai@sfasu.edu. Please avoid using other email addresses (e.g. D2L email).

**I will not reply** to the below:

1. Emails not composed in standard written English (it’s not an IM);
2. Emails asking questions the answers to which are available in the syllabus, catalog or course schedule;
3. Emails requesting an excused absence or make-up assignment. Unless the emergency is dire, please discuss these matters with me in person;
4. Emails requesting a recap or summary of material covered in a missed class meeting.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**VI. Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**VII. PSC 336 Calendar Spring 2020** (This calendar is tentative and I reserve the right to alter it.)
All page numbers refer to the Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought.

**W** 1/15 Welcome and introduction. **Film:** King Lear

**F** 1/17 King Lear

**M** 1/20 **MLK, Jr. Holiday.**

**W** 1/22 King Lear, concluded. **Read Machiavelli:** pp. 343-361

**F** 1/24 pp. 361-675

**M** 1/27 pp. 375-390

**W** 1/29 **Luther** and **Calvin:** pp. 390-407

**F** 1/31 **Hobbes:** pp. 407-426

**M** 2/3 pp. 426-464

**W** 2/5 pp. 441-464

**F** 2/7 pp. 464-491

**M** 2/10 **Paper #1 Due:** Machiavelli to Hobbes

**W** 2/12 **Locke:** pp. 491-517

**F** 2/14 pp. 517-542

**M** 2/17 pp. 542-566

**W** 2/19 **Montesquieu:** pp. 577-584

**F** 2/21 **Hume:** pp. 602-611

**M** 2/24 **Paper #2 Due:** The Social Contract

**W** 2/26 **Rousseau:** pp. 611-639

**F** 2/28 pp. 639-664
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>pp. 664-684</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>pp. 684-702</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Kant: pp. 733-741</td>
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<td>3/23</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Constant: pp. 837-848</td>
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<td>Paper #3 Due: Rousseau to Revolution</td>
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<td>Hegel: pp. 848-855</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>pp. 855-876</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Bentham: pp. 876-885; 889-900</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>J.S. Mill: pp. 895-925</td>
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<td>4/10</td>
<td>EASTER HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>pp. 931-955</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Tocqueville: pp. 966-974</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Paper #4 Due: The Question of Society; the Question of History</td>
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M 4/20  *Marx and Engels*: pp. 981-1006

W 4/22  pp. 1006-1031

F 4/24  1031-1046


W 4/29  pp. 1075-1097

F 5/1  *Paper #5 Due*: Marx and Nietzsche, the Modern Crisis

Take-home Final due by Friday, May 8th

VIII. Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

IX. Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).