POLITICAL SCIENCE 103
Introduction to Political Theory
[Fulfills General Education Requirements: CH-EUR; DP-HUM]
Spring 2009
11:45-1:05 TuTh
Lecture Center 24
Section 5041

Required Books
(1) Sophocles. Antigone (Oxford).
(2) Plato. The Republic. (Basic Books).
(3) Machiavelli, Niccolo. The Prince (Chicago).

All these books can be purchased at the university bookstore as well as at Mary Jane Books. If you purchase them elsewhere, please make sure you are buying the same editions; otherwise your translations will differ and it will make it more difficult for you to participate in class discussions.

Class Requirements
(1) Class participation in your discussion section (15% of grade).
   Attendance will be taken in your discussion section. Each absence beyond two absences will mean a letter grade deduction in your class participation grade. You should also bear in mind that you cannot participate in any discussion in any discussion section you do not attend, which could very well affect your class participation grade. You will be graded on both the quantity and quality of your class participation, which means completing the assigned readings on time and reviewing them before your discussion section.
(2) Two short (approximately five pages) writing assignments (15% each).
   These writing assignments will be based on the class readings, lectures, and discussions. Your papers will be graded on both style and content.
(3) Midterm (25%)
(4) Final (30%)
Both exams will be in-class essay exams based on the class readings, lectures, and discussions.
Class Goals
(1) To achieve a good collective understanding of the assigned readings; the goal is for everyone to contribute to the process. This goal will require a careful reading of our texts as well as a lot of listening and talking to each other in discussion sections. You will probably engage in some lively, free-wheeling debates over the course of the semester; please, keep it civil and focused on arguments, not personalities (i.e., no ad hominem arguments).
(2) To shamelessly exploit the assigned readings to help us think about some of the most fundamental questions of politics, such as the nature of justice, the best form of government, the limits of political obligation, the uses and abuses of power, and the relevant and possibly irrelevant senses of human equality and liberty.

Academic Integrity
Students who compromise the integrity of the classroom will receive failing grades on papers and/or tests; a second violation will result in a failing grade in the class. In either case, a report will be filed with the Office of Student Conduct. Violations of academic integrity include:
(1) Cheating on examinations.
(2) Plagiarizing the work of others. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing the work of another person without proper crediting the source as well as reproducing large excerpts from previously published works (even if the source is properly credited). If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism or how to properly credit sources, please consult your section leader.
(3) Misrepresentation of any work done in the classroom or in preparation for class; for example, handing in the same assignment for two classes, handing in another student’s paper as one’s own, paying someone else to write a paper, or downloading papers off the internet.
(4) Disruptive behavior in a course of study or abusiveness toward faculty or fellow students.

Schedule of Reading and Writing Assignments
[all assignments should be completed by the date listed on the syllabus unless announced otherwise in class]

January 27          Read: Sophocles. Antigone.
January 29          Read: Plato. The Republic, Bk. I
February 3          Re-Read: Plato. The Republic, Bk. I
February 5          Read: Plato. The Republic, Bk. II.

[the first writing assignment will be assigned in discussion section during the week of February 2-6; it will be due one week later during the next discussion section]
February 10        Read: Plato. The Republic, Bk. III
February 12        Read: Plato. The Republic, Bk. IV
February 24        Re-Read: Plato. The Republic, Bk. IV
February 26  Read. Plato. The Republic, Bk. V

March 3    Read: Machiavelli. The Prince, dedicatory letter; chaps. 1-7

March 5    Read: Machiavelli. The Prince, chaps. 8-14

March 10   Read: Machiavelli. The Prince, chaps. 15-18

March 12   Read: Machiavelli. The Prince, chaps. 19-26; appendix

March 17   Midterm exam

March 19   Read: Mill. Utilitarianism, chapters 1-3

March 24   Read: Mill. Utilitarianism, chapters 4-5

March 26   Read: Mill. On Liberty, chapters 1-2

March 31   Read: Mill. On Liberty, chapters 3-5

April 2    No Class/Attending Midwest Political Science Convention

April 7    Read: Nietzsche. On the Genealogy of Morals, preface; first essay

April 14   Read: Nietzsche. On the Genealogy of Morals, second essay

April 16   Read: Nietzsche. On the Genealogy of Morals, third essay

[the second writing assignment will be assigned in discussion section during the week of April 12-18; it will be due one week later during the next discussion section]

April 21   Read: Camus. The Stranger

[the following three essays have been placed on electronic reserve]

April 23   Read: Jean Paul Sartre. “Existentialism is a Humanism” (1946)


April 30   Read: Iris Marion Young. “Reflections on Families in the Age of Murphy Brown: On Gender, Justice, and Sexuality” (1996)

May 5      Summing up, or, alternatively, random thoughts on the way to a train wreck

May 13     Final: 8:00-10:00 a.m.