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Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:40 p.m.; and by appointment

This course meets on Tuesdays and Thursday from 1:10 to 2:20 p.m. in PPAC 338.

Political Science 250: Contemporary Political Theory, Spring 2013

Course description:

We begin our study of political theory in the 20th and 21st century with a close reading of Carl Schmitt's *The Concept of the Political*. This starting point will allow us to chart expansions and shifts in how the political is understood by a variety of contemporary thinkers, including conservatives and neoconservatives, theorists who study nationalism and terrorism, and feminist theorists. A selection of shorter readings is drawn from Nancy Love's *Dogmas and Dreams: A Reader in Modern Political Ideologies*. We pass into the territory of interdisciplinary theory with sociologist Ulrich Beck's work entitled *World at Risk*. The course concludes with a very recent publication that won the award for best book in the American Political Science Association's Foundations of Political Theory section in 2011. In our final text, Joseph M. Schwartz's *The Future of Democratic Equality: Rebuilding Social Solidarity in a Fragmented America*, we will take an applied approach to theory and contemporary U.S. politics.

Course objectives:

- 1) To expand and deepen an account of the political
- 2) To acquire canonical and contemporary literacy in political theory
- 3) To ask critical questions regarding political matters
- 4) To improve verbal and written expression with reference to textual evidence

Books for sale at the Moravian College Bookstore:

- 1) Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (University of Chicago)
- 2) Joseph M. Schwartz, *The Future of Democratic Equality: Rebuilding Social Solidarity in a Fragmented America* (Routledge)
- 3) Nancy Love (editor), *Dogmas and Dreams: A Reader in Modern Political Ideologies* (CQ)
- 4) Ulrich Beck, *World at Risk* (Polity)

Other required reading will be made available on reserve at Reeves Library or online.

Assignments and Evaluation

Calendar	Project	% Final Grade
Ongoing	Engagement, incl. daily notes*	30%
February 12	Examination	20%
March 21	Examination	25%
May 2, 8:30 a.m.	Final Examination	25%

***Required: daily notes. Daily notes consist of three passages and three questions for each reading assignment. Please bring two copies, one for me and one for you. Daily notes are due at the start of every class meeting. Please prepare them with care and include your name, course information, date, full author name and full title. All passages must be properly identified with page numbers.**

Tuesday, January 15	Introduction
Thursday, January 17	Carl Schmitt, <i>The Concept of the Political</i>
Tuesday, January 22	<i>The Concept of the Political</i>
Thursday, January 24	<i>The Concept of the Political</i>
Tuesday, January 29	<i>The Concept of the Political</i>
Thursday, January 31	Irving Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion: <i>What it was, and what it is</i> " in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Tuesday, February 5	Allan Bloom, "The Democratization of the University" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Thursday, February 7	Michael Oakshott, "On Being Conservative" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Tuesday, February 12	Examination
Thursday, February 14	<i>Ulrich Beck, World at Risk</i> , chapters 1 and 2
Tuesday, February 19	<i>World at Risk</i> , chapters 3 and 4
Thursday, February 21	<i>World at Risk</i> , chapters 5 and 6
Tuesday, February 26	<i>World at Risk</i> , chapters to be chosen by course
Thursday, February 28	<i>World at Risk</i> , chapters to be chosen by course
SPRING RECESS	
Tuesday, March 12	Benedict Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism</i> in Nancy Love, <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Thursday, March 14	Edward W. Said, "Origins of Terrorism" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Tuesday, March 19	Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Thursday, March 21	Examination
Tuesday, March 26	Betty Friedan, "Our Revolution is Unique" and Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>

Thursday, March 28	Monique Wittig, "One is Not Born a Woman" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Tuesday, April 2	Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Thursday, April 4	Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness" in <i>Dogmas and Dreams</i>
Tuesday, April 9	Fresh air political theory, bring your favorite passage
Thursday, April 11	Joseph M. Schwartz, <i>The Future of Democratic Equality: Rebuilding Social Solidarity in a Fragmented America</i> , chapters 1 and 2
Tuesday, April 17	Chapters 3 and 4
Thursday, April 19	Chapters 5 and 6
Tuesday, April 23	Chapters 7 and 8
Thursday, April 25	Course evaluations and review for the final examination
Thursday, May 2	8:30 a.m. final examination

What does an engagement grade represent?

A. Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.

B. Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions; engagement of the arguments of others.

C. Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.

D. Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.

F Persistent, vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

General Course Information

PLEASE TURN YOUR CELLPHONE OFF OR DOWN

AND PUT IT AWAY BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CLASSROOM.

Our purpose is concentration and dialogue. Please protect the classroom as a space of learning. If you are a parent or a caretaker and thus need to be accessible at all times, please let me know.

1) I invite you to visit my office hours. Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. I am happy to help you with difficulties relating to your reading of our texts as well as challenges that may arise with regard to assignments. It is my pleasure to help you improve your enjoyment of and performance in this course.

2) Be diligent in your studies and attend class. Undocumented absences beyond the first will harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% of your total course grade (per absence).

3) Drinks are fine, but food or gum impedes your ability to participate in our discussion and is therefore not appropriate.

4) Expect to work six hours on average outside of class per week. The workload varies, and the texts can be challenging. Give yourself plenty of time to read, reread, review, and take notes on texts. Our interest is in deep readings and in gaining a solid toolkit of political theory questions, concepts, and arguments. Don't skim or rush. Avoid online resources in favor of a direct experience with the text.

7) I strongly discourage late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment. Late work is penalized at 30 % of the assignment grade on the four-point scale.

8) Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment or the course. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

9) Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling (610) 861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

10) This syllabus is subject to change.