**WWU Political Theory / Political Economy**

**Political Science 462, Spring 2015**

**TTH 8:00-9:50; Arntzen Hall 421**

**Prof Cynthia Horne**

**Office: Arntzen Hall 440**

**Office Hours: 12:00-1:00 T and TH, and by appointment**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines contending views on the nature of the relationship between economics and politics. We will focus on classical political economy theorists and texts, highlighting the main debates. Specifically we will explore how classic liberals, mercantilists, Marxists, and socialists have understood the appropriate relationship between states and markets. We will explore the normative underpinnings of the contending approaches in order to better understand the economic, social, and political tradeoffs embedded in each of the approaches.

The theories all engage in questions related to political governance and economic systems. We will compare the views on similar issues, including: democracy, capitalism, development, economic inequality, the relationship between labor and capital, the role of competition in the economy, the type of state intervention deemed appropriate, the provision of public goods, the role of technology in economic development, and how economic change impacts social classes. Moreover, we will examine how these theoretical understandings have changed over time in response to each other, empirical evidence, and changes in world historical time.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. THOUGHT PAPERS (4 papers)**

There will be 4 analytic thought papers due for this course. The papers are five page **critiques** of the readings for that class. You must turn in the paper to me on the day we are discussing the readings.

**Your first thought paper topic is selected for you. It is due on April 14th and requires that you engage with the first Mill reading. You can choose when you turn in the other papers, but you must turn in one paper on readings from each of the three remaining parts of the course:** Marxists, Critiques of Capitalism, and Liberalism.  **You must turn in one paper --and only one paper --during each part.**

**P**apers can ONLY be on the readings for that day. You must turn it in BEFORE we talk about it in class. You cannot turn in a paper on a reading we have already discussed. **Late papers will not be accepted. No exceptions.**

**Structure of the papers/Expectations for the papers**

The papers are to be five pages long and entail a brief summary and critique of the readings. No more than 2 of the 5 pages should be straight summary of the readings. Summarize the main

theoretical contributions for 1.5-2 pages, and then offer an informed critique for the rest of the paper. You should offer at least **three poignant critiques** of the readings.

You MUST have a thesis statement—make an argument in the piece. You SHOULD NOT conduct outside research. This is NOT a research paper. IT IS NOT A CURRENT EVENTS PAPER EITHER, NOR SHOULD YOU APPLY THE THEORY TO CURRENT EVENTS.

**The paper is a thought exercise in which you critically and analytically engage with some of the main issues and main assumptions being put forth by the author. Here are some ideas:**

1. Point out where the author’s logic is inconsistent or contradictory
2. Point out if the author has made assumptions that are flawed, or not in keeping with the rest of the argument
3. Explain how the logic of the author’s argument would lead to conclusions that are inconsistent with the author’s central claims
4. Explain how the author has distorted other authors’ ideas in order to create a straw man argument that he then attacks…

***…there are lots of ways to tackle an internal critique, but the focus has to be on a careful reading of the author’s own words and ideas…***

1. *Be sure to use citations and page numbers from the reading to make your argument.* ***DO NOT DISTORT THE IDEAS OF THE AUTHOR.***  If you do not authentically engage with the reading, your argument will be inauthentic. You should not distort what the author is saying to try to make an argument.

**My suggestion for getting started…**

Here is my suggestion: 1) do the reading and take notes on the reading, noting page numbers, 2) go back through the notes and organize them into the author’s main argument, 3) figure out what is internally inconsistent or erroneous about the logic of the author’s argument… **THEN** write a paper using **DIRECT CITATIONS** (including page numbers) from the reading in order to make the argument…

**2. TEAM BASED LEARNING--QUIZZES**

A substantial portion of this course will revolve around team-based learning. What does team-based learning mean? It means that, I will create teams of about four-five people each, who will work together all quarter.

You will work in teams to complete a number of in class quizzes. You will take quizzes individually, and then immediately after each individual in-class assessment exercise, you will break into your teams and complete the exact same exercise together. Team scores on these exercises and other team assignments count toward your final grade.

Many students often worry that one or more students will fail to pull their weight; with that in mind, you will all complete a peer evaluation of your team members, which will also become a part of your final grade.

There will be four assessment quizzes in this class. **THEY ARE UNANNOUNCED. YOU CANNOT MAKE THEM UP. YOU MUST COME TO CLASS TO COMPLETE THE QUIZ.** The individual quizzes will count toward the final grade (total of 20%, or 5% each). Your team quizzes will count for 10% of your final grade (or 2.5% each).

**3. PARTICIPATION**

This course requires your participation. I expect you to come to class each day having completed the readings and ready to engage in a discussion about the materials. **If you come to class and do not participate, or if you fail to intelligently engage with the materials during class discussion, your participation grade will suffer.**

**NOTE:** If you miss more than four days of class, please come and talk to me. You will not be able to pass this class with six unexcused absences. This means you will have missed three weeks of class time, and this will result in failure to successfully complete the course.

### GRADE BREAKDOWN

Short papers 60% (4 papers, 15% each)

Quizzes 20% (5% each)

Team quizzes 10 % (2.5% each)

Participation 10%

**Reminders:**

**This syllabus is subject to change, although I will work to minimize changes. Changes will be announced in class. Students will be held responsible for all changes.**

I will uphold all aspects of Western’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedure, and Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. They are published in the Western catalog in Appendix C, *University Academic Policies.*

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Please don’t plagiarize. **If any part of your coursework is plagiarized you will automatically fail this course. No make ups, no excuses.**

**Special Needs:** Reasonable accommodations for persons with document disabilities should be established within the first week of class and arranged through Disability Resource Services, phone: 650-3083; drs@wwu.edu. I will work with you and Western Washington University to meet any documented needs.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

**\*\* Denotes the book is available at the bookstore for purchase**

**\*Denotes material available for free download from the internet.**

1. **\* Adam Smith (1789), excerpts from *Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *Wealth of Nations*. Available at:** [**http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html)

[**http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smMS.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smMS.html)

1. **\*John Stuart Mill (1848), excerpts from *Principles of Political Economy: with some of their applications to social philosophy*. Available at** [**http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlP.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlP.html)
2. **\*Karl Marx (1848), excerpts. See syllabus for specifics.** [**http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Marx/mrxCpA.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Marx/mrxCpA.html)
3. **\*\*Max Weber (1904). *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.***
4. **\*\*Joseph Schumpeter (1942). Excerpts from *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. Harper Perennial Modern Classics.**
5. **\*Karl Polanyi (1944). Excerpts from *The Great Transformation: the political and economic origins of our time*. Beacon Press.**

**Available at** [**www.unchartered.org/frownland/books/Polanyi**](http://www.unchartered.org/frownland/books/Polayni)**.**

1. **\*\*Friedrich von Hayek (1944). *The Road to Serfdom.* University of Chicago Press.**
2. **\*John Maynard Keynes (1935),** Excerpts from ***The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*. Macmillan Cambridge University Press.**

[**http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/keynes/general-theory/**](http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/keynes/general-theory/)

1. **\*\*Milton Friedman (1975). *Capitalism and Freedom.* University of Chicago Press.**

**Syllabus: Please read the assigned readings by the date indicated**

**Part I—Classic Liberals**

**March 31st —Course overview**

**April 2nd –Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments***

[**http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smMS.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smMS.html)

 **Part I: Of the Propriety of Action**

Section I: Of the Sense of Propriety,

Section III: Of the Effects of Prosperity and Adversity upon the Judgment of Mankind…

**Part II: Of Merit and Demerit, Section II: *Of Justice and Beneficence***

Chapter 1: Comparison of those two virtues

 Chapter 2: Of the sense of Justice, of Remorse, and of the consciousness of Merit

 Chapter 3: Of the utility of this constitution of Nature

**April 7 and 9th –no class but expected to meet with your group AND turn in assignment to canvas.**

**April 7th -9th -- Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*** [**www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html)

Book 1: Of the Causes of Improvement in the productive powers of labour

 Chapters I.1: Of the Division of Labour

 Chapter I.2: Of the Principle which Gives Occasion to the Division of Labour

 Chapter I.3: That the Division of Labour is Limited by the Extent of the Market

 Chapter I.4: Origins and Use of Money

 Chapter I.5: Of the Real and Nominal Price of Commodities

 Chapter I.6: Of the component parts of the Price of Commodities

 Chapter I. 7: Of the natural and market Price of Commodities

 Chapter I.8: Of the Wages of Labour

**Turn in written answers to the discussion questions for this Adam Smith *Wealth of Nations* reading. Please meet with your group and turn in ONE set of answers reflecting the joint responses of your group members. This will count as one of the quizzes. It is open-book. It is due by 9:50am on April 9th—turned in to the canvas website. Complete sentences and full ideas get you full credit.**

**April 14th --Mill, *Principles of Political Economy*** [**www.econlib.org/library/Mill/MlP.html**](http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/MlP.html)

**Book IV: Influence of the Progress of Society on Production and Distribution:**

 Chapter I and II: General Characteristics of Progressive State of Wealth and Influence of the Progress of Industry

IV: Declining Rates of Profit

VI: Stationary State

***Please write a thought paper on Mill readings for April 14th –due at the start of class on April 14th***

**April 16th --Mill, *Principles of Political Economy* [www.econlib.org/library/Mill/MlP.html](http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/MlP.html)**

 **Book V: On the Influence of Government**

 Chapter I: On the Functions of Government in General

 Chapter X: Of Interferences of Government Grounded on Erroneous Theories

 Chapter XI: Of the Grounds or Limits of the Laissez-Faire or Non-Interference Principle, only sections §1- §7.

**Part II —Marxist and Structural Theories**

**April 21 —Marx,**

* ***Marx On the History of His Opinions*, 3 pages… to be provided*.***
* ***The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts,* (1844)**

First Manuscript.

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/preface.htm>

**April 23 —Marx, *The German Ideology*, (1845)**

Part I: Feuerbach: Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlooks

<http://www.marx.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/index.htm>

**April 28** --**Marx, *Das Kapital***

Part I: Commodities and Money (this includes chapters 1-3 in this section) <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/>

Chapter 15: Machinery and Modern Industry, Sections 1-5 <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch15.htm>

**April 30th -excerpts from Polanyi’s *Great Transformation***

Chapters 6-7; 19 and 21 (Transformation in Progress)

[**http://www.uncharted.org/frownland/books/Polanyi/POLANYI%20KARL%20-%20The%20Great%20Transformation%20-%20v.1.0.html**](http://www.uncharted.org/frownland/books/Polanyi/POLANYI%20KARL%20-%20The%20Great%20Transformation%20-%20v.1.0.html)

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***Second thought paper due no later than April 30th***

**Part III—Critiques of Capitalism**

**May 5th —Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism***

Read Part I: The Problem

**May 7th -- *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism***

 Read Part II: The Practical Ethics of the Ascetic Branches of Protestantism

**May 12th John Maynard Keynes , three speeches**

* Keynes, "Am I a Liberal?" (1925) <http://es.paperblog.com/john-maynard-keynes-am-i-a-liberal-1925-357931/>
* Keynes, " The End of Laissez-Faire" (1926) <http://panarchy.org/keynes/laissezfaire.1926.html>
* Keynes,  "Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren" (1930)  <http://www.econ.yale.edu/smith/econ116a/keynes1.pdf>

**May 14: Schumpeter, From *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy***

Part II: Can Capitalism Survive?

 Prologue, Chapter 5-10

**May 19 – Schumpeter, From *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy***

 Part II: Can Capitalism Survive?: Chapters 11-14

**May 21: From *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy***

 Part II: Can Capitalism Survive?: Chapters 11-14

 Part III: Can Socialism Work? Chapters 15-18.

***Third thought paper due no later than May 21st***

**Part IV: Liberal Theorists—Hayek and Friedman**

**May 26: F.A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*,** introduction, chapters 1-4

**May 28 : *The Road to Serfdom,*** chapters 5-9

**June 2 : Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom***

 Introduction, and Chapters 1-5

**June 4: *Capitalism and Freedom***

 Chapters 8, 10-13

 Distribution of Income, Social Welfare Measures, Alleviation of Poverty, Conclusion

***Fourth and final thought paper due by June 4th***