

## Political Science 673

### 20th Century Political Theory

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Class: T/R 11:30 to 1:18

Office Hrs: Thurs. 1:30 to 2:30

2114 Derby Hall

This course is an advanced survey of political theory in the 20th century. Though the readings will proceed in roughly chronological order, the course is organized around a central theme, namely the 20th century's struggle with the collapse of the Enlightenment project – i.e., the totalizing attempt to use "Reason" to free our minds, control nature, and order our political lives. PS 672 ended with Max Weber's analysis of modernity, in which that project has failed: we are trapped in an "iron cage" from which we must merely "choose our gods and demons." We will pick up where Weber left off (though 682 is *not* a prerequisite): each of the thinkers that we will consider are struggling to overcome the problem that Weber identified, but did not solve. Throughout, we will consider how the answers offered during the 20th century might help us to meet the emerging challenges of the 21st century.

*Students with disabilities should make their needs known to the instructor and seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880, also in the first week of the quarter.*

## Course Requirements

There are four main course requirements:

1. Seminar participation: I have high expectations for attendance and class preparation. In addition to you being expected to volunteer your views during discussion, you may be called upon at random. Some of these readings are dense and difficult, so I strongly encourage you to take notes as you read, and whenever possible, to read them twice and/or discuss them with classmates before the class session. *I do not expect you to come to class with all the "right" answers. However, I do expect you to come to class having thought seriously about our texts and the questions they raise.* "A" level participation involves demonstrating consistently high levels of engagement with the readings, as well as insightfully connecting them to each other, the course themes, other students' contributions, real politics, etc... General seminar participation will count for 30% of the final course grade.

In addition to general participation, each member of the class will be assigned the role of "point person" for up to two class sessions. This role involves turning in a formally written set of comments on the readings (about three pages), and making a short (about 5 minute) class presentation designed to spark discussion. Your discussion, presentation, and written responses for this session will count for 10% of your final grade.

2. Quizzes: I will give an indeterminate number of unannounced quizzes to check for preparation and understanding. The quizzes will not be difficult if you have done the readings for that class session. The combined quizzes will count for 10% of your final grade.
3. Final paper. One ten page paper on a subject of the seminar member's choice, *clearly relevant to the course themes, and contingent on my prior approval.* This paper will count for 40% of the final course grade and is due on June 5th by noon in electronic format (MS-Word is preferred). When you email me the paper, you should not consider it received until you get a confirmation response from me. I do accept late papers, though you lose one third of a letter grade per day until 24 hours before grades are due at which point I will no longer accept them. The standards for the paper follow the criteria outlined in Booth et. al. which we will discuss in depth when we cover that book.

We will workshop a draft of your papers on the last day of class. Therefore, a draft of your paper will be due in class at the previous session, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Though this draft will not be graded, it is very much in your interests for it to be a serious attempt at laying out your argument.

2. Colleague comments: Each person in class will be paired with two others for purposes of workshoping each other's papers. You will be expected to provide your partners (and me) with a written set of comments on their draft paper, using the criteria set out in Booth et. al. Your colleague comments will count for 10% of your final grade.

*A note on academic integrity:* I require electronic copies of your paper because they will be run through a software program designed to detect plagiarism from the web, as well as a database of papers turned in at OSU. I do this *not* because I do not trust you. I believe that the vast majority of students are honest. I even believe that most students who plagiarize do so, not because they are generally dishonest, but because they panic in the end of term crush. I check for plagiarism to reassure students who do their own work that they are not chumps, and to help students who are tempted to plagiarize under pressure to avoid making a decision that they will come to regret.

### **Course Materials**

All course materials other than the Dewey book will be available on Carmen.

There is only one required book for the course:

John Dewey The Public & Its Problems (Any edition will do.)

For an outstanding guide to writing academic papers (e.g., your final paper for this course), I highly recommend Booth, Colomb, & Williams: The Craft of Research 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

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### **Schedule of Readings**

March 27 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Introduction: The Collapse of the Enlightenment Project</i>	
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The State as the Source of Reason: Totalitarian Politics</i>	
	Carl Schmidt	from The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*
	Alfredo Rocco	from The Political Doctrine of Fascism*
	Josef Stalin	from The Foundations of Leninism*
	Milovan Djilas	from The New Class*
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Walter Lippmann	from <i>Public Opinion</i> *
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	John Dewey	<i>The Public &amp; Its Problems I&amp;II</i> *

April 10 <sup>th</sup>	John Dewey	<i>The Public &amp; Its Problems III&amp;IV</i>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	John Dewey	<i>The Public &amp; Its Problems V&amp;VI</i>
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	F. Hayek	from <i>The Road to Serfdom</i>
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	S. M. Amadae	from <i>Rationalizing Capitalist Democracy*</i>
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Horkheimer & Adorno	<i>The Concept of Enlightenment*</i>
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Habermas	<i>Rationality &amp; the Public Sphere*</i>
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Habermas	<i>Epistemology &amp; Methodology*</i>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Habermas	<i>Language &amp; Communication*</i>
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Habermas	<i>Ethics &amp; Law*</i>
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Habermas	<i>Social Evolution &amp; Legitimation*</i>
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Habermas	<i>The Theory of Modernity*</i>
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Booth et. al.	<i>The Craft of Research 2nd Ed.</i>
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Habermas	<i>Critical Social Theory Today*</i>
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Rawls	<i>Reply to Habermas</i>
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Enlightenment Today</i>	
	Kant:	What is Enlightenment?*
	Foucault:	On Kant's "What is Enlightenment?"*
	Habermas:	On Foucault's Lecture on Kant's "What is Enlightenment?"*
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Paper Workshop	