



PHIL 220 Social and Political Thought

Fall Semester, 2022-23

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

8 Sept., 2022- 8 Dec., 2022

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

T/Th. 8:30am-9:50am, St. Francis

Instructors Name: Dr. Francis Fast
Office: Room 2-04
Office Hours: T/Th 1:00pm - 2:00pm
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Skype: n/a

Course Description

A study of the fundamental principles of political philosophy as a basis for Catholic social teaching. The course will address such questions as: Are social and political modes of organization – family, household, city, and nation – natural or merely conventional? What are the appropriate limits of human freedom? Do human beings have rights that everyone should respect? Is there a difference between moral and legal obligations? Can it ever be morally acceptable to disobey the state? These questions will be explored through a study of texts by historical and recent authors such as Aristotle, Aquinas, Locke, Hobbes, de Tocqueville, Rawls, MacIntyre and Finnis, but will focus upon topics of perennial concern.

Course Objectives

- a) **Knowledge of major Western philosophical disciplines, especially Thomism.** - Students will demonstrate an ability to read analytically and critically assess great books in philosophy from all of the major historical periods, and to articulate the relation between the philosophical arguments studied and the implications for other disciplines, e.g. fine arts, literature, history, etc.
- b) **Skills in reading, writing and oral communication.** - Students will write argumentative essays on philosophical topics, logically assess

philosophical arguments in writing and orally, and practice synthesizing the content of primary sources.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Participation - 10%: As this class uses Socratic pedagogy, student participation in seminar discussions is required. A rubric for the participation grade will be available on the first day of class.

Essays (12-16 pages total) – 40%: Topics in the course schedule, and rubrics will be given in class. All essays must be turned in by 5pm on the due date, via email.

Exams – 50%: A study guide will be offered at least one week prior to the exam.

Textbooks

Aristotle, *Politics* (tr. Carnes Lord, Univ. of Chicago Pr., 2nd ed., 2013)
The Basic Works of Thomas Aquinas (eds. Haise and Pasnau, Hackett, 2014)
 Locke, John, *The Second Treatise on Government*,
 Rousseau, J.J., *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (tr. Donald Cress, Hackett, 1992)
 Marx, Karl, *The Essential Writing of Karl Marx* (Red and Black, 2010)
 Weber, Max, *The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (tr. Peter Baehr, Penguin, 2002)
 Ratzinger, Joseph, *Without Roots* (Basic Books, 2007)

Recommended Reading

The above texts will be sufficient.

Late Submission Policy.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due at the beginning of the class on the specified day. Late assignments are docked 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B to B-) per day, excluding Sundays and Holy Days, up to a maximum of 5 days after which the assignment will be deemed incomplete.

Course Schedule

Sept 8	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> I	First class.
13	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> II	
15	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> III	
20	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> IV	
22	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> VII	
27	Aquinas, <i>ST I-II</i> Q. 90-91	
29	Aquinas, <i>ST I-II</i> Q. 92	

Oct 4	Aquinas, <i>ST I-II</i> Q. 93	
6	Aquinas, <i>ST I-II</i> Q. 94-95	
11	Aquinas, <i>ST I-II</i> Q. 96-97	
13	Aquinas, <i>ST I-II</i> Q. 98, 105	
18	Aquinas, <i>ST Sup.</i> (selections on marriage)	First participation grade given (5%)
20	Mid-Term Exam	(20%)
25	Locke, <i>Second Treatise on Government</i> (selections)	
27	Locke, <i>Second Treatise on Government</i> (selections)	
Nov 1	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origins of Inequality</i>	
3	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origins of Inequality</i>	Nov 3: ESSAY 1 due (20%)
8	Solemn Festival of Reading Week	
10		
15	Marx, <i>The Paris Manuscripts</i> (selections)	
17	Marx, <i>The Paris Manuscripts</i> (selections)	
22	Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	
24	Selections from contemporary Marxist movements (to be distributed as a handout in class)	
29	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Pt. 1	
Dec 1	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Pt. 2	
Dec 6	Ratzinger, <i>Without Roots</i>	Dec 8: ESSAY 2 due (20%)
8	Ratzinger, <i>Without Roots</i>	Second participation grade given (5%)
As published	Final Exam	Final Exam (30%)

Essay Prompts

ESSAY 1 – 6-8 pages - (Nov 3)

Aristotle argues that man is naturally a political animal. To what extent does human nature dictate a specific form for the political order?

ESSAY 2 – 6-8 pages - (Dec 8)

Compare and contrast the vision of a just society in the thought of Locke and Marx. Be sure to address a) whether they have the same understanding of justice, and b) what each of them see as the chief impediments to establishing justice. Conclude by assessing how Aristotle or Thomas Aquinas might respond to each.

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies			Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3	Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0		D	1.0
				F	0.0
Fail	F	0.0			

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).

3. American Psychological Association “Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association” (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting the Dean of Students, Lorraine Spenrath at 780-392-2450; email lorraine.spenrath@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)