COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will explore the nature and meaning of social science. We will look at attempts that some of the greatest minds in the Western tradition have made to understand social and political phenomena scientifically, and how those attempts bear on their views of justice, happiness, and the best way of life. We will pay special attention to the question of whether any normative social science – that is, one which makes evaluations of what is better and worse, just and unjust, or right and wrong – is even possible, and if so, how.

The course will proceed chronologically, beginning with the origins of social science among the ancient Greeks and culminating in the modern crisis of social science and the belief that no normative social science is possible. Along the way, we will also look at how social science conducted within the great religious traditions, specifically Christianity and Islam. We will look extensively at the revolution in social science which led to the emergence of liberalism, and which laid much of the foundation of the American system of government.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

30%—Final Exam, closed book, held on Wednesday, December 8, from 2-5 PM (location TBD); format will be questions selected at random from study questions handed out at the end of term, and will cover material from the entire term.
20%—Mid-term closed book exam.
20%—Short paper (1500 words), topic to be assigned
10%—Attendance (required) at lectures; each unexcused absence after the first will subtract 10% from your attendance grade (which is equal to 1% of your overall final grade).

10%—Attendance at, and participation in, discussion sections. If you miss a discussion section, you must consult with the professor or TA to make it up; otherwise, you will receive a 0 as a grade for discussions.

10%—Closed book quizzes on the readings (clues for which will be in the weekly study questions) administered at the start of the class hour. The quizzes are meant to ensure that students do the reading, and so will not be announced beforehand.

Honors Section Requirements
(For students enrolled in CTU 302 Honors / Unique Number 33095)

30%—Final Exam, closed book, held on Wednesday, December 8, from 2-5 PM (location TBD); format will be questions selected at random from study questions handed out at the end of term, and will cover material from the entire term.

20%, 20%—Two short papers (1500 words), topics to be assigned

10%—Attendance (required) at lectures; each unexcused absence after the first will subtract 10% from your attendance grade (which is equal to 1% of your overall final grade).

10%—Attendance at, and participation in, discussion sections. If you miss a discussion section, you must consult with the professor or TA to make it up; otherwise, you will receive a 0 as a grade for discussions.

10%—Closed book quizzes on the readings (clues for which will be in the weekly study questions) administered at the start of the class hour. The quizzes are meant to ensure that students do the reading, and so will not be announced beforehand.

LIST OF READINGS

Wednesday, August 25: Introduction
Friday, August 27: Plato, Republic I*
Monday, August 30: Plato, Republic I
Wednesday, September 1: Aristotle, Ethics I*
Friday, September 3: Aristotle, Ethics I
Monday, September 6: Aristotle, Politics I.1-7
Wednesday, September 8: Aristotle, Politics I.8-13
Friday, September 10: DISCUSSION
Monday, September 13: Aristotle, Politics III.1-5
Wednesday, September 15: Aristotle, Politics III.6-9
Friday, September 17: Aristotle, Politics III 10-13
Monday, September 20: Aristotle, Politics III 14-18
Wednesday, September 22: MIDTERM; Honors paper due promptly at 10 AM
Friday, September 24: Thomas Aquinas, Excerpts*
Monday, September 27: Thomas Aquinas, ctd.
Wednesday, September 29: Ibn Khaldun, Muqaddimah*
Friday, October 1: DISCUSSION
Monday, October 4: Machiavelli, The Prince, Epistle Dedicatory and 1-3
Wednesday, October 6: Machiavelli, The Prince, 4-6
Friday, October 8: Machiavelli, The Prince, 7-9
Monday, October 11: Machiavelli, The Prince, 10-14
Wednesday, October 13: Machiavelli, The Prince, 15
Friday, October 15: DISCUSSION
Monday, October 18: Machiavelli, The Prince, 16-19
Wednesday, October 20: Machiavelli, The Prince, 20-26
Friday, October 22: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, Preface and Books I-III
Monday, October 25: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws IV, chaps. 1-5; V chaps. 1-7;
VII chaps. 1-5, 8-17; VIII chaps. 1-7, 16-17
Wednesday, October 27: Montesquieu ctd.
Friday, October 29: DISCUSSION
Monday, November 1: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, Bk. XI chs. 1-8; XII chs. 1-4
and 12-13; XV, chs 1-9; XIX, 4-6, 27
Wednesday, November 3: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, ctd.
Friday, November 5: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, XX; XXI chs 1 and 20
Monday, November 8: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws; XXIV, XXV 1-2, 9-12
Wednesday, November 10: Rousseau, First Discourse (entire)
Friday, November 12: DISCUSSION**
Monday, November 15: Rousseau, Social Contract I, II 1-6;
******Paper due promptly at 10 AM on Monday, November 15
Wednesday, November 17: Rousseau, Social Contract I, II 1-6
Friday, November 19: Weber, Vocation Lectures
Monday, November 22: Weber, Vocation Lectures
Wednesday, November 24: NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving
Friday, November 26: THANKSGIVING BREAK
Monday, November 29: Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Prologue (pp. 9-28),
and selected speeches (pp. 46-51, 58-60, 67-69, 96-102), including “On Old and
New Tablets,” #1-5, 11-12, 25 (pp. 196-99, 202-4, 211-12)
Wednesday, December 1: Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra
Friday, December 3: LAST CLASS

* Reading found in course packet
** On Friday, November 12, the honors discussion will not meet. It will meet
instead on Monday, November 15, at 7 PM.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

NB: You are required to purchase these editions, all of which are available at
the Co-Op Bookstore. If you do not have the right version, you will not be
able to follow the discussion in class.

Required Course Packet – Available at the Co-Op Bookstore
Aristotle, Politics (Simpson trans., Univ. of North Carolina), ISBN# 0807846376
0226500446
CLASS MATERIALS:
Rousseau, *First and Second Discourses* (Masters, St. Martin’s) ISBN# 0312694407

GRADING POLICY

We will use the plus / minus grading system for this class. Quizzes, tests, and attendance will be graded numerically. Papers and participation in discussion sections will be given letter grades. In order to calculate your final grade, these will be translated into number grades as follows:

A: 96; A-: 91; B+: 88; B: 84.5; B-: 81; C+: 78; C: 74.5; C-: 71; D: 65; F: 30

Final grades are calculated numerically, then translated into a letter grade using the following scale:

A: 93-100; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-90; B: 83-87; B-: 80-83; C+: 77-80; C: 73-77; C-: 70-73; D: 60-70; F: below 60.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom: Cell phones must be turned off, and laptops will not be permitted. If you have a disability that requires you to use a laptop, please consult with me.

Excused Absences: You can be excused for missing a class if you have a valid reason and show me appropriate documentation. “Valid reasons” may include illness (bring a doctor’s note), a death in the family, or religious observances. Missed quizzes may be made up only if your absence is excused.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Any violation of the University’s Honor Code will be treated extremely seriously. Specific rules may be found on the Registrar’s web site at:
http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/app/gi09.appc03.html

See especially Section 11-802.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities that require any accommodations should speak to me about them; I will do everything I can to address your needs. You may also wish to consult with the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssl/