

**Department of Political Science
Rutgers University-Newark
Fall 2019**

Prof. Antonio Y. Vázquez-Arroyo
Modern Political Theory
(21: 790: 372)
Office: 714 Hill Hall
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Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 2.30-3.50pm
Location: 104 Hill Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-2pm; Thursdays, 12-2pm; and by appointment

Course Description

This course involves a survey of early and modern political theory. In order to contextualize modern political theory, our point of departure will be the emergence in the world of the Greek city-states of political theory as a distinctive tradition of discourse. With the revolts and reforms that gave birth to democracy, a new political experience in the fifth century BCE in Athens, also led to the consequent development of systematic political theorizing. The Greeks reflected on their new political experience in a variety of genres and modes of discourse. The same could be said about the ways in which Roman, Medieval, and Renaissance thinkers inherited and transformed Greek political thought in their respective milieus. In the Roman period, for instance, political theorizing was radically transformed in relation to the different spatial configurations and historical processes that characterized the transition from the Roman Republic to the Empire. Lastly, the emergence of Christianity, and its eventual fate as an imperial religion, will be briefly examined, and the transmutations of political thought within it.

Accordingly, this course examines some of the basic conceptual fields emerging as subjects of political-theoretical reflection: democracy, constitutions, justice, equality, and authority, and other themes that defined this experience; say, the tensions associated with the distinctions between demos and the elite, ethics and politics, democracy and empire, capitalism and democracy, along with the effects of war on democracy. In doing so, the course also offers a critical exploration of the emergence of liberal-capitalist civilization in light of the forms of power that characterizes it. Accordingly, we will address the nature of the new modern forms of power and their impact on political life, along with the nature and contradictions of post-revolutionary political and economic orders; and, finally, the political and economic realities governing the present.

Course Schedule

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| 9/3 | Introduction |
| 9/5 | S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , chap. 1 (Blackboard) |
| 9/10 | S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 27-62 |
| 9/12 | S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 63-85 |

9/17	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 86-108
9/19	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 108-126
9/24	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 127-147
9/26	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 148-174
10/1	Exam – IN CLASS
10/3	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 175-200
10/8	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 200-213
10/10	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 214-234
10/15	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 235-256
10/17	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 257-282
10/22	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 282-314
10/24	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 315-342
10/29	NO CLASS
10/31	Short Paper Due
11/5	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 342-389
11/7	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 393-405
11/12	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 406-430
11/14	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 430-453
11/19	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 454-494
11/21	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 495-523
11/26	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 524-556
Thanksgiving Break	
12/3	S. S. Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i> , 557-580

12/5 S. S. Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, 581-606

12/10 Cont. S. S. Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, 581-606

FINAL ESSAY: TBA

Required Text:

Sheldon S. Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, Expanded Edition (Princeton University Press)

(Only chapter 1 is available on Blackboard. You MUST acquire a printed copy of the book.)

The required text is available for purchase at the University Bookstore (<http://newark-rutgers.bncollege.com>). **This is an electronic free classroom. So, please, no phones, laptops, or electronic books are allowed; you must bring a hard copy of the assigned reading to class. You'd lose 2% of your final grade every time you show up to class without the reading in hand. Make sure that you show me the reading when I call your name at the beginning of each class.**

Course Requirements

All students are responsible for the required readings and for participation in class discussions. Your written work consists of one in-class exam and two 3-5 page essays. Each comprises 30% of your final grade; the remaining 10% of your final grade will consist of participation/attendance. Essay topics will be distributed in class. This is how the 10% for participation/attendance works: if you participate, your grade will be raised (5 points overall); if you violate the attendance policy, your grade will be lowered (5 points overall). Namely, you get 5 points for attending, and an additional 5 for participating. You are permitted three absences for the semester. Any additional absences will result in the aforementioned penalty. A pattern of unexcused absences will result in the student failing the course (you will get an "F" as your final grade). **I reserve the right to conduct oral examinations on your written work.**

Analytical Papers

Make sure that your papers are well organized, clearly and carefully argued, as well as textually supported. Please avoid randomly collecting unanalyzed quotes. We are going to spend some time discussing the structure of an adequate theory paper.

Cautionary Note/Important Advice

There are several things that you should keep in mind to avoid unpleasant surprises. I expect students to critically ponder the arguments each thinker presents and to make an effort to understand these arguments with the goal of developing a rigorous and informed critique. Second, the texts under scrutiny are sometimes dry, difficult, and dense, therefore, it is important that you have your thoughts together when you work your way through these texts. As a piece of advice, I encourage you to do the readings when you are awake and in an environment conducive to study, otherwise it will be difficult for you to keep up with the class.

Academic Integrity: All work you submit for the course is expected to be your own. Cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will lead to failing the course and action from the University. Whenever you quote, closely paraphrase, refer to or make use of arguments or examples from other sources in your written work, you must cite the appropriate source in a footnote, endnote, or in parentheses at the end of the sentence, depending of what citation style you are using.

Here is the university's official statement: *As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here:*

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

Miscellaneous

Our classroom discussions are open, frank, and casual. Please respect the perspectives and inquiries of your peers and instructor. Do not interrupt someone who is speaking and refrain from deliberately demeaning language or intimidating behavior. Do not read newspapers or other unrelated materials during class. **Students found doing so will be dismissed. Please make sure that cell-phones are turned off. If your cell-phone rings during class, you will be dismissed. There are No exceptions to this rule. All written work is to be typed and double-spaced. Incomplete grades will NOT be automatically given; these will be granted only in reference to particular situations and at the instructor's discretion.**