Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department
Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 400
Course Title: Political Philosophy

DIGITAL DESCRIPTIONS

STUDENT DESCRIPTION:
# Cr Hrs - # Lec Hrs - # Lab Hrs
3 - 3 - 0

PAY-HOUR DESCRIPTION:
Total # = Lec Hrs + Lab Hrs
3 = 3 + 0 X 2/3

Catalog Description: Study of major writers in political philosophy including Plato, Aristotle, Acquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and others. Cross-listed as POSC 400. Offered even Fall. Course meets World/Eastern Culture graduation requirement.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

Western Political Thought, Brian R. Nelson, 1996, Prentice Hall.
Any appropriate anthology or collection of writings from the major authors of political philosophy.

Course Objectives: The student should receive from this course a knowledge of the views of the basic characteristics of human nature and its effect on the political system, and the origins of society and of government. The student should understand such concepts as freedom and liberty, equality, community, power, and justice in their relation to governmental forms and should appreciate the characteristics and the goals or ends of government in its alternative structures.

Note: POSC 400 is a senior-level course in political philosophy. As such students must be required to read from original texts for all philosophers discussed. Students must also be assigned an intensive writing assignment which may be either based on research, conducted outside class or in developing a personal political philosophy citing the work of other philosophers.

Also, all examinations for this course must contain a significant (more than 50%) essay portion in which students analyze and critique political ideas.

Topical Outline: Plato - The Republic
Aristotle - The Laws
St. Augustine- City of God
Acquinas - Summa Theologica
Machiavelli - The Prince
Loche - Two treatises on Government: The Second Treatise
Hobbes - The Leviathan
Rousseau - The Social Contract
Marx - Manifesto of the Communist Party

Other major writers of political philosophy

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Prepared by: David Roebuck
Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

Date: September 19, 2003

NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time it provides guidance on what the course should cover.