Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: POSC 400

Course Title: Political Philosophy

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Study of major writers in political philosophy including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and others. Cross-listed as PHIL 400. Offered even Fall. Course meets WE Culture graduation requirements.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Nelson, Brian R. *Western Political Thought.* Prentice Hall.


Any appropriate anthology or collection of writings from the major authors of political philosophy

Course Objectives:

• To introduce the subject of political philosophy and its primary authors.
• To begin formulating personal philosophical views on the political world.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Understand of the relationship between one’s view of human nature and the proper political system
• Identify significant trends in the historical development of political thought such as equality, liberty, gender equity, justice, force, and the right of revolution.
• Understand significant contributions of the most important writers of political thought beginning at the time of Plato.
• Read and comprehend original sources in political philosophy.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

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.

- 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*

Material from this course may be tested on the Major Field Test (MFT) administered during the Culminating Experience course for the degree.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: **30**

Library Resources: Online databases are available at [http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp](http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp). You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: David Roebuck

Name Signature

Date: March 14, 2006

**NOTE:** The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an 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. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
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