

Methods of Political Theory

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fall 2008

Instructor: R. Avramenko
Office: 201c North Hall
Office Hours: T 1:00 – 3:00

Course: PS931
Location: Education 242
Time: 4:00 – 6:30

Course Objective:

This seminar is designed for graduate students who study texts as their vocation. Our first goal is to explore different visions of the purpose of political theory. Second, we will explore the nuts and bolts of how these different views and ends of political theory are brought to bear. In other words, we will consider—both in theory and practice—different approaches to texts. Finally, students will be challenged to bring the insight from these readings to bear in their own work.

Required Texts:

- John Caputo. *Deconstruction in a Nutshell: A Conversation with Jacques Derrida (Perspectives in Continental Philosophy)*
- Michel Foucault, *The Foucault Reader*, (New York, NY: Pantheon Books; 1984). (ISBN: 0394713400)
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, (New York: Vintage Books, 1995)
- Hans-Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method (Second Revised Edition)*, (New York: The Continuum Publishing Company; 1989)
- Martin Heidegger. *Being and Time* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1962)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, transl. Walter Kauffman (New York, NY: Random House, Inc., 1969)
- Richard Palmer, *Hermeneutics: Interpretation Theory in Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, and Gadamer* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1969) (ISBN 0-8101-0027-4)
- Leo Strauss. *What is Political Philosophy? And Other Studies*. (ISBN: 0226777138)
- Eric Voegelin, *The New Science of Politics* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press; 1987).

Please purchase these particular editions and translations. This is a text-based course and full participation requires that we navigate and explore the text together—that we be on the same page, so to speak.

Requirements:

Seminar Participation:	20%
Presentations and papers (4 @ 5-10 pp.):	60%
Field methods paper (5pp):	20%

Schedule:

September 4: What is Political Theory?

Required:

- i) Leo Strauss, "What is Political Philosophy?" in *What is Political Philosophy? And Other Studies*, pp. 9-27.
- ii) Voegelin, Eric. *The New Science of Politics*, Introduction, pp. 1-26.
- iii) Mark E. Warren. "What is Political Theory/Philosophy?" in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (Sep., 1989), pp. 606-612.
- iv) Bhikhu Parekh. "Theorizing Political Theory" in *Political Theory in Transition*, O'Sullivan
- v) Sheldon S. Wolin, "Political Theory as a Vocation." *American Political Science Review* 63 (1969), pp.1062-82.
- vi) Isaiah Berlin, "Does Political Theory Still Exist?" in *Concepts and Categories*, ed. Henry Hardy (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press; 1988).

Further Readings:

- i) Alasdair MacIntyre, "The Indispensability of Political Theory," in D. Miller and L. Siendentop, *The Nature of Political Theory* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983)
- ii) Jeffrey Isaac, "The Strange Silence of Political Theory," in *Political Theory* 23(4) [1995], pp. 636-652.
- iii) Elizabeth Kiss, "The Strange Silence of Political Theory: Response," in *Political Theory*. 23(4) [1995], pp. 664-669.
- iv) Seyla Benhabib, "The Strange Silence of Political Theory: Response," in *Political Theory*. 23(4) [1995], pp. 664-669.
- v) John Gray, "After the New Liberalism"
- vi) Alfred Cobban, "The Decline of Political Theory," in *Political Science Quarterly* 68(3) [1953], pp. 321-3.
- vii) Dante Germino, "The Revival of Political Theory," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Aug., 1963), pp. 437-460.
- viii) David Miller, "Varieties of Political Theory."

September 11: The Chicago School

A) Theory

- i) Leo Strauss, "Persecution and the Art of Writing," in *Social Research* 8:4, pp. 488-504.
- ii) Leo Strauss, "On a Forgotten Kind of Writing" in *What is Political Philosophy? And Other Studies* (pp. 221-232).
- iii) Allan Bloom, "The Study of Texts" in *Giants and Dwarves* (pp. 295-314).
- iv) Shadia Drury, "The Esoteric Philosophy of Leo Strauss" in *Political Theory* 3:13.

September 18: The Chicago School

B) Practice

- i) Strauss, Leo, "On Plato's *Republic*," in *The City and Man* (pp. 50-138).
- ii) Strauss, Leo, "Machiavelli's Intention: *The Prince*," in *APSR* 51:1 (1957), pp. 13-40.

- iii) Leon Craig, *The War Lover: A Study of Plato's Republic*, Prologue (pp. xiii-xxxviii).

September 25: The Cambridge School

A) Theory

- i) Quentin Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," in *History and Theory* 8 (1969).
- ii) Quentin Skinner, "Motives, Intentions and the Interpretation of Texts," *New Literary History*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Winter 1972)
- iii) Quentin Skinner, "'Social Meaning' and the Explanation of Texts" in *The Philosophy of History*, pp. 106-127.
- iv) Parekh, Bhikhu and R.N. Berki. "The History of Political Ideas: A Critique of Q. Skinner's Methodology," in *Journal of the History of Ideas*. Vol. 34. No. 2. pp. 163-184.

Further Readings:

- i) Quentin Skinner, "Some Problems in the Analysis of Political Thought and Action," *Political Theory* 23 (1974), pp. 277-303.
- ii) James Tully, *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and His Critics*: pp. 1-135.
- iii) John Dunn, "The History of Political Theory," in *The History of Political Theory and Other Essays* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 1996).

October 2: The Cambridge School

B) Practice

- i) Quentin Skinner, "Machiavelli on virtue and the maintenance of liberty," in *Visions of Politics Vol. II: Renaissance Virtues* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 2002), pp. 160-185
- ii) Quentin Skinner, "The idea of negative liberty: Machiavellian and modern perspectives," in *Visions of Politics*, pp. 186-212
- iii) Nathan Tarcov, "Quentin Skinner's Method and Machiavelli's *Prince*," *Ethics* 92 (1982), pp. 692-709

October 9: Phenomenological Hermeneutics

A) Theory

- i) Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, pp. 17-77
- ii) Richard Palmer, "*Hermēneuein and Hermēneia*: The Modern Significance of Their Ancient Usage," pp. 12-32; "Six Modern Definitions of Hermeneutics," pp. 32-45; "Heidegger's Contribution to Hermeneutics in *Being and Time*," pp. 124-139, all in *Hermeneutics*
- iii) Jan Patočka, "Qu'est-ce que la phénoménologie?" In: *Qu'est-ce que la phénoménologie?*, ed. and trans. E. Abrams (Grenoble: J. Millon 1988), pp. 263-302

Further Readings:

- i) Leo Strauss, "Philosophy as Rigorous Science and Political Philosophy"

- ii) Paul Ricoeur, *Hermeneutics & the Human Sciences*, ed. John B. Thompson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981).

Background Readings in Phenomenology

- i) Edmund Husserl, *Ideas: General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology* (New York: Collier Books, 1967)
- ii) Edmund Husserl, "Philosophy as Rigorous Science," in *Husserl: Shorter Works*, eds. Peter McCormick and Frederick A. Elliston (Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 1981).
- iii) Richard Velkley, "Edmund Husserl" in *History of Political Philosophy*, Third Edition, eds. Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987), pp. 870-887.
- iv) Don Ihde, "Introduction: Doing Phenomenology," in *Experimental Phenomenology* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1986), pp. 13-28.
- v) Leszek Kolakowski, *Husserl and the Search for Certitude* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1975).
- vi) Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, preface pp. vi-xxiv

October 16: Phenomenological Hermeneutics

B) Practice

- i) Martin Heidegger, "Plato's Doctrine of Truth," in *Philosophy of the Twentieth Century: An Anthology*, Vol. III, eds William Barrett and Henry D. A. Ken (New York: Random House, 1962), pp. 251-270.
- ii) Paul Ricoeur, "The Phenomenology of "Confession" and "Defilement," in *The Symbolism of Evil* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1967), pp. 3-46.

October 23: Hermeneutics

A) Theory

- i) Hans-Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method*: Introduction; Part II, Section II (pp. 265-379).
- ii) Hans-Georg Gadamer, "Hermeneutics as Practical Philosophy," in *Reason in the Age of Science* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1981), pp. 88-112.
- iii) Hans-Georg Gadamer, "Hermeneutics as a Theoretical and Practical Task," in *Reason in the Age of Science* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1981), pp. 113-138.
- iv) Hans-Georg Gadamer, "Text and Interpretation" in *The Gadamer Reader: A Bouquet of Later Writings* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2007), pp. 156-191.

Further Readings:

- i) Friedrich Schleiermacher. "The Hermeneutics: Outline of the 1819 Lectures" in *New Literary History* 10:1, pp. 1-16.
- ii) Wilhelm Dilthey. "The Rise of Hermeneutics" in *New Literary History* 3:2, pp. 229-244.
- iii) Charles Taylor, "Interpretation and the Science of Man" *The Review of Metaphysics* Vol. 25 1971.

- iv) Paul Ricoeur. "Hermeneutics and the Critique of Ideology," in Paul Ricoeur, *Hermeneutics & the Human Sciences*, ed. and transl. John B. Thompson (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1981), pp. 63-100.

October 30: Hermeneutics

B) Practice

- i) Hans-Georg Gadamer, "Plato and the Poets," in *Dialogue and Dialectic* (pp. 39-72).
- ii) Catherine H. Zuckert, "Hermeneutics in Practice: Gadamer on Ancient Philosophy" in *The Cambridge Companion to Gadamer* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 201-224.

November 6: Deconstruction

A) Theory

- i) Jacques Derrida, "Force of Law: The 'Mystical Foundation of Authority,'" *Acts of Religion*, ed. Gil Anidjar (New York, NY: Routledge; 2002).
- ii) Derrida, "The Deconstruction of Actuality," "Negotiations," and "Ethics and Politics Today," in *Negotiations*.

November 13: Deconstruction

B) Practice

- i) Jacques Derrida, "Plato's Pharmacy," in *Dissemination*, pp. 61-171.

Further Readings

- i) Fred Dallmayr, "Hermeneutics and Deconstruction: Gadamer and Derrida in Dialogue."
- ii) Jacques Derrida, "Three Questions to Hans-Georg Gadamer"
- iii) Hans-Georg Gadamer. "Reply to Jacques Derrida"

November 20: Genealogy

A) Theory

- i) Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, (pp. 15-54).
- ii) Michel Foucault, "Introduction," in *The Foucault Reader* (pp. 3-29)
- iii) Michel Foucault, "Truth and Power," in *The Foucault Reader* (pp. 51-75)
- iv) Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History," in *The Foucault Reader* (pp. 76-100)
- v) Michel Foucault, "What Is an Author," in *The Foucault Reader* (pp. 101-120)
- vi) Michel Foucault, "We 'Other Victorians,'" in *The Foucault Reader* (pp. 292-300)
- vii) David Owen, "On Genealogy and Political Theory," *Political Theory*, Vol. 33 No. 1, 110-120 (2005)

December 4

A) Practice

- i) Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (pp. 3-31, 104-131, 135-169, 195-228)

December 11: Comparative Political Theory

A) Theory

- i) Eric Voegelin, "Equivalences of Experiences and Symbolization in History," *The Collected Works of Eric Voegelin (Volume 12)*, ed. Ellis Sandoz (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press; 1990).
- ii) Farah Godrej, "Toward a Cosmopolitan Political Thought: the Hermeneutics of Interpreting the 'Other'" (forthcoming, *Polity*)
- iii) Lee Jenco, "'What Does Heaven Ever Say?' A Methods-centered Approach to Cross-cultural Engagement," (APSR 101:04, November 2007, pp 741-755)
- iv) Andrew Marsh, "Is Political Theory Ever (Not) Comparative?" (paper presented at APSA conference, August 2008.)

B) Practice

- i) Farah Godrej, Gandhi. *Review of Politics*.
- ii) Brooke Ackery, "Is Liberalism the Only Way toward Democracy? Confucianism and Democracy." *Political Theory*. 3, 4 (August): 547-576, 2005
- iii) Roxanne Euben. "Traveling Theorists and Translating Practices," in *What is Political Theory*, ed. Stephen K. White and Moon. (unless Farah suggests better piece)

Further Reading:

- i) Roland Bleiker. "Globalizing Political Theory," in *What is Political Theory*, ed. Stephen K. White and Moon.
- ii) Anthony Parel and Ronald Keith, *Comparative Political Philosophy: Studies Under the Upas Tree* (Lexington Books, 2003)

Other Approaches:

A) Vantagism

- i) Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*: pp. 1-136.
- ii) Sheldon S. Wolin, "Paradigms and Political Theories," *Politics and Experience*, eds. Preston King and B.C. Parekh (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 1968).

B) Analytical Political Theory

- i) Williams, Bernard. "Political Philosophy and the Analytical Tradition"