This course is an introduction to the new field of Comparative Political Philosophy. People from every society have asked fundamental questions concerning the nature of the universe, the character and purpose of human life, and the determination of just political and social orders. Answers to these questions have varied profoundly over time and across the world. The course will compare responses by selected political thinkers from different societies. There are many rich traditions of political discourse. The comparisons will serve as an introduction to a number of these traditions as well as highlighting and providing a deeper understanding of concepts that we take for granted in our own tradition.

The course is designed as a discussion class. It is expected that assigned readings will be completed by class time and that students will participate actively in the conversations. Students are also expected to complete two reflective papers (7-10 pages each) and a research paper (13-15 pages). From time to time, short (1-2 pages) position papers will be assigned to help facilitate discussions. Grading will be based on the following weighting of the above components: 20% participation, 25% for each of the reflective papers and 30% for the research paper.

Assigned books are available at Huntley Book Store.
Other readings are available on electronic reserve at Honnold Library.

Lao Tzu, The Tao Te Ching
Plato, The Apology and Crito
Plato, The Republic
Aristotle, The Politics
Machiavelli, The Prince
Hobbes, The Leviathan
Locke, The Letter on Toleration
The Bible: Old and New Testaments
The Koran
Parel and Keith, Comparative Political Philosophy: Studies: Under the Upas Tree
Confucius, The Analects
Han Fei Tzu, Basic Writings
Descartes, Discourse on Method
**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

January 26  Introduction
What is Political Philosophy?
What is the meaning of a Tradition? Who is included?
Dialogues within traditions: Western Ancient and Modern

Strauss, “What Is Political Philosophy?”
or Cooper, chpts. 2 and 3 in Parel and Keith, *Comparative Political Philosophy*
Wolin, “Political Theory as a Vocation” APSR, Dec. 1969
Hwa Yol Jung, “Postmodernity, Eurocentrism and the Future of Political Philosophy” in Fred Dallmayr, ed. *Border Crossings, Toward a Comparative Political Theory*

February 2  The Comparative Perspective
Parel and Keith, *Comparative Political Philosophy*, chpt. 1
Arendt, Preface and Chpt. 1, *Between Past and Future*
Jaspers, Karl, “The Axial Period,” *The Origin and Goal of History*
Dallmyr, “Beyond Monologue, For a Comparative Political Theory”
March, Andrew, “Is Political Theory Ever (Not) Comparative”
Rosow, “Political Theory, The University & Globalization: Toward a Comparative Dialogics”
Godrej, Farah, “Interpreting the ‘Other’: The Hermeneutics of Comparative Political Theory”

**NATURE AND THE POLITICAL ORDER**

February 9  The God of Abraham: *The Bible*  *The Old Testament*: Genesis 1-29, Exodus1-21, 28-34, 1 Samuel 8-11, Isaiah 1-7, 21, 45.  
*The Koran* (selections)

February 16  The Dao: Lao Tse, *The Tao Te Ching*  
God of Reason: Descartes, *The Discourse on Method*  
PHILOSOPHY AND THE POLITICAL ORDER

February 23
Plato, The Apology and the Crito.; Plato, The Republic, Part 1, Part 2 chpt. 5-8; Part III, chpt 23-25
Aristotle, The Politics, Bk I, III chpt 1-4, Bk VII
Rawls, A Theory of Justice

March 2
Confucius, The Analects, Bk 1-8, 11-17
Hsun Tzu, Basic Writings (ereserves)
Cline, Two Senses of Justice: Confucianism and Rawls and Comparative Political Philosophy

Wednesday, March 4th
First Paper Due

REASON VERSUS REVELATION: RELIGION AND STATE

March 9
St. Thomas Aquinas Introduction to St. T. Aquinas (ereserves) p. 3-15, 435,609-22, 646-50
St. Augustine, Political Writings of St. Augustine (ereserves) p.1-21, 28, 118-133. 195. 203-228
Alfarabi, “The Letter Concerning the Intellect” in Walsh & James, Philosophy in the Middle Ages (ereserves)
Averroes, “The Decisive Treatise Determining the Nature of the Connection Between Religion and Philosophy” in Walsh & James (ereserves)
Umar, “Farabi and Greek Philosophy in Parel and Keith, Comparative Political Philosophy
Lao Tzu, Hua Hu Ching (ereserves) no. 15, 16, 43, 47-51, 78

Religion and the State

March 23
Hobbes, Leviathan , Intro., Chpt 1,5, 10-13; Part II, Chpt. 17-18, 21, 29-30.
Locke, Letter on Toleration
Spinner-Halev, “Hinduism, Christianity and Liberal Religious Toleration”
MORALITY VERSUS EXPEDIENCY

March 30  
Machiavelli, *The Prince*  
Confucius, *The Analects*, Bk 12-17 review

GOVERNMENT: AUTHORITY AND LEGITIMACY

April 6  
Aristotle, *The Politics*  
Bk IV, chpt 1-12; V, VI  
Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*  
Chuang Tzu (ereserves)

April 13  
*The Law and Society*  
Guest lecture: Sudatip Pramanmetha  
The Rule of Law: Case study of Thailand  
Plato, *The Laws*, Bk IV (esp. n. 715)  
Aristotle, *The Politics*, Bk. III  
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Treatise on Law, Question 90-97  
Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, Chpts. 18, 19, 21, 26, 29  
Locke, Second Treatise on Government, chpts. 2,3,6-12,19  
Han Fei Tzu, *Basic Writings*  
Keith, “Law and Society in Confucian Thought” in Parel and Keith

THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COMMUNITY

April 20  
Hobbes, *The Leviathan* (selections)  
J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chpt. 3 (ereserves)  
Confucius, *The Analects* (selections)  
Gbadejesin, “Eniyan: The Yoruba Concept of a Person (ereserves)  
April 27

Equality and Hierarchy
Plato, The Republic Part II, chpt. 10, 12-14
The Bhagavad Gita (ereserves)chpts. 1-4, 6, 13,18

Wednesday, April 29th  Second Paper Due

THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD: GLOBALIZATION AND DIALOGUE

May 4  (I) Nationalism/Decolonialization/ Neocolonialism
Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (ereserves)
Mao Tse Tung (ereserves)
Keith, “Mao Zedong and his Political Thought” in Parel and Keith
Ware, “What Good is Democracy? The Alternatives in China and the West”, in
Parel and Keith

(2) Moral Critique of the West
Gandhi (ereserves)
Parel, “M. Gandhi’s Critique of Modernity” in Parel and Keith
Tehranian, “Khomeini’s Doctrine of Legitimacy” in Parel and Keith

(3) Dialogue

Research Paper due Monday, May 11th 5 PM in PP office