

PP 464: COMPARATIVE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

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Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Tues 4:15-5:30PM; Thurs. 1:15-2:20 PM and by appointment

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
 Gatens, "Feminism, Philosophy & Riddles Without Answers," *Feminist Challenges*, eds. Pateman and Gross
 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, Exodus 1-21, 28-34, 1 Samuel 8- 11, Isaiah 1-7, 21, 45.
 The New Testament: John 1-8, 13-14
 The Koran (selections)

February 16 The Dao: Lao Tse, The Tao Te Ching
 God of Reason: Descartes, The Discourse on Method
 Dialogue East/West in a Buddhist text: The Questions of King Melinda (ereserves) p. 1-136, 190-95, 202-13

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
Ibn Khaldun, The Muqaddimah (ereserves) p. 154-166, 170-178, 183- 1
333-346, 388-90, 398-405
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
Kautilaya's, Arthasastra (ereserves, under T.N. Ramaswamy, Essentials of Indian Statecraft: Kautilya's Arthasastra) Pages 45-147.
K.J. Shah, "Of Artha and The Arthasastra" in Parel and Keith
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 Pramuanmetha
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)
Gbadegesin, "Eniyan: The Yoruba Concept of a Person (ereserves)
Plato, "The Myth of Er", The Republic, Part VI

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

(1)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

Tehrani, “Khomeini’s Doctrine of Legitimacy” in Parel and Keith

(3) Dialogue

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