Professor Stephen Eric Bronner

Bronner@rutgers.edu

Department of Political Science

790:101 — Nature of Politics, Fall 2015

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:35PM - 6:55PM, Hickman Hall 138

Office hours: Tuesdays 4pm-5pm, Hickman Hall 306

Syllabus

This course will deal with some of the basic political concerns of the modern era. They include questions of power, organization, class formation, war, revolution, and social movements. In elaborating these themes, the course will analyze a number of authors with a variety of political viewpoints. Requirements will include two take-home exams, which should run about 12 typed pages each. Exams will be posted on Sakai and will also need to be submitted on Sakai. It is your responsibility to plan ahead to turn in your exams on time. Late exams will be accepted at the discretion of your TA and Professor Bronner for extenuating circumstances with documentation. Your grade will also be reduced as determined by the professor. Class participation and attendance will also play a role in the grade. Books are available at New Jersey Books on Easton Avenue; additional readings will be posted on Sakai. Please check the Sakai site regularly for course information and announcements. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class.

**Sections**

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| **Section** | **Time** | **Location** |
| 1 | Wednesday, 9:50-11:10 | Hardenbergh Hall-A6 |
| 3 | Wednesday, 11:30-12:50 | Murray Hall 113 |
| 6 | Wednesday, 2:50-4:10 | Hardenbergh Hall-B6 |
| 8 | Wednesday, 10:55-12:15 | Hickman Hall 112 |
| 10 | Wednesday, 12:35-1:55 | Hickman Hall 204 |
| 15 | Wednesday, 12:35-1:55 | Hickman Hall 214 |
| 20 | Tuesday, 7:15-8:35 | Hickman Hall 130 |
| 22 | Tuesday, 7:15-8:35 | Hickman Hall 205 |

**TA Information [TBD]**

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| **TA** | **Email** | **Office Hours** | **Office Location** | **Sections** |
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**Required Readings\* (available at NJ Books on Easton Ave)**

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*

Immanuel Kant, *Political Writings* (ed. H.S. Reiss)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Barrington Moore, Jr., Herbert Marcuse, and Robert Paul Wolff, *A Critique of Pure Tolerance*

Carl Schmitt, *Concept of the Political*

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

*\*MOST OF THESE READINGS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AND OTHER, NOTED, READINGS WILL BE POSTED ON SAKAI*

**Class Schedule**

**Week 1 (9/1)**

Introduction: Review Syllabus

**Weeks 1 and 2 (9/3 and 9/10)**

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

**Week 3 (9/15)**

Dostoyevsky, “The Grand inquisitor,” from *The Brothers Karamazov*

**RECITATION MEETING #1 ON 9/15 or 9/16 — NO MEETING ON 9/17**

**Week 4 (9/22 and 9/24)**

Schmitt, *Concept of the Political*

**Week 5 (9/29)**

Hamilton, Federalist #1 and 78, in *The Federalist Papers*

Madison, Federalist #10 and 51, in *The Federalist Papers*

**RECITATION MEETING #2 ON 9/29 or 9/30 — NO MEETING ON 10/1**

**Week 6 (10/6 and 10/8)**

Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*

**Week 7 (10/13)**

Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

**RECITATION MEETING #3 ON 10/13 or 10/14 — NO MEETING ON 10/15**

**Week 8 (10/20 and 10/22)**

Freud, cont,

Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

**Week 9 (10/27)**

Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” in Reiss (ed.), *Kant: Political Writings*

**RECITATION MEETING #4 ON 10/27 or 10/28 — NO MEETING ON 10/29**

**Week 10 (11/3 and 11/5)**

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” [SAKAI]

**Week 11 (11/10)**

X, “Ballot or the Bullet?” [SAKAI]

**RECITATION MEETING #5 ON 11/10 or 11/11 — NO MEETING ON 11/12**

**Week 12 (11/17 and 11/19)**

Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge,” *Foreign Affairs* (March 4, 2004) [Sakai]

**Week 13 (11/24)**

Marcuse, “Repressive Tolerance,” in Wolff, et al., *A Critique of Pure Tolerance* [SAKAI]

**Week 14 (12/1)**

Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest* (Summer 1989) [SAKAI]

Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993) [SAKAI]

**RECITATION MEETING #6 ON 12/1 or 12/2 — NO MEETING ON 12/3**

**Week 15 (12/8 and 12/10)**

Conclusion