Syllabus for Political Theory

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Draft Syllabus For Political Theory

Richard Skinner

Requirements:

Midterm (Week 6): 30% grade

Final: 30% grade

Four reaction papers (2-3 pages) responding to a week’s readings: 10% each.

Weeks 1-3: Ancient Political Thought

Plato, The Republic

Aristotle, The Politics

Weeks 4-5: Medieval and Renaissance Political Thought

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince

Thomas Aquinas, Selected Writings

Weeks 6-8: Early Modern Political Thought

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan

John Locke, Second Treatise on Government

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract

Weeks 9-11: Modern Political Thought

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (selections)

Karl Marx, Capital (selections), “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte,” “The German Ideology”
Weeks 12-13: Post-Modern Political Thought

The Portable Nietzsche

The Foucault Reader