June 2013

Political Theory, Romanian American University, Syllabus

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Recommended Citation
Samson, Steven A., "Political Theory, Romanian American University, Syllabus" (2013). Faculty Publications and Presentations. 411.
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Epigraphs

“In the sphere of economics, covering nine-tenths of man's daily life, the test of every activity, increasingly came to be not 'Is it just?' but 'Does it pay?' There was only one check on that rule — the human conscience. With the gradual concentration of business in the hands of limited liability companies, even that check was removed. A limited liability company has no conscience. A priesthood of figures cannot consider claims of morality and justice that conflict with its mathematical formulas: it must live by its own views. Man, who had once tried to model his life on the divine, came to take his orders from the lender of money and the chartered accountant acting in their purely professional capacity. That has been the story of the last century of civilization.” -- attributed to Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn

“We have now sunk to a depth at which the restatement of the obvious has become the first duty of intelligent men.” -- George Orwell, review of Bertrand Russell’s *Power*

“The political fanatic who is hearing voices in the air has distilled his frenzy from the work of some academic scribbler of a few years back.” – John Maynard Keynes

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is [a] force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.” -- attributed to George Washington

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them." – Ray Bradbury

**Key to Readings:** Readings for objective questions are indicated by **any Bold color**
- **Red** = Major readings and/or study aids from text and/or workbook, e.g., B. 1
- **Green** = Readings posted on Blackboard
- **Blue** = Links to Readings on Internet
- [1-36] = Readings and/or Study Aids in workbook (sometimes multiple)
- **Collateral** = Links to suggested readings

**Setting the Stage: Preliminary Readings:** Eccl. 1:1-11; 12:8-14; Rev. 2:1-7

- Atbashian, Oleg. *The Socialist Mind Game: A Brief Manual*
- Kupelian, David. *America's Marxist Picnic*
- Pethokoukis, James. *6 Charts That Show the Welfare State Run Amok*
- Science Codex. *Will the Economic Crisis Lead to Major Societal Changes?*
- Steyn, Mark. *Reality Doesn't Need to Win the Electoral College*
- _______. *Kindly Note the Impending Bankruptcy*
- **Political Theory** (Blackboard)
- **Collateral**
  - Mabray, John. “Life in Victory” (Blackboard)
  - Mead, Walter Russell. *The Invisible Hand Is Writing on Our Wall*
  - Williams, Walter. *Immoral Beyond Redemption*
  - Steyn, Mark. *Live Free or Die* and *The State Despotíc*

January

**UNIT 1**
Mon. 14 1. **Introduction: Pedagogy**
Psalm 64:5-6
Phil. 4:8

**Evans, M. Stanton.** The Liberal History Lesson [1]
Kohlmayer, Vasko. *The Main Thing*

**Lewis, C. S.** “Introduction to Athanasius’ ‘On the Incarnation’”

**Collateral**
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*
Jacobs, Alan. *Christianity and the Future of the Book*

---

Wed. 16 2. **Classical Liberalism**

**Bastiat, Frederic.** *The Law* (excerpts) [2]

Thieves’ Paradise
Benjamin Constant on Classical vs. Modern Liberalism
Plato’s Critique of Democracy
Tocqueville, Alexis de. The Danger of a Philanthropic Despotism

Vazsonyi, Balint on the Pedagogy and Rhetoric of Envy

Lenin, Vladimir. Self-Inflicted Wounds

**Application**
Durstewitz, Jeff. *The Archduke of (Moral) Hazard*
Raskin, Max. *Jonesin’ for a Soda*

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Fri. 18 3. **Tradition and Literature**

**Bastiat, Frederic (cont.)** [2]

**Kirk, Russell.** Three Types of Imagination [3]

Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik v. *Christianity: Foundation and Conservator of Freedom*

Postman, Neil. The Huxleyan Warning (Blackboard)

**Collateral**
Riddle, Wesley Allen. Horse Sense for the New Millennium

---

Mon. 21 4. **Conservative Intellectual Movement**

**Nelson, Jeffrey** [4]

Rowley, Chas. *Adam Smith Would Not Be Optimistic in Today's Economic World*

**Collateral**
Birzer, Bradley J. *Conservatism Defined (sort of)*

Heineman, Robert. *Conservatism in the US: 1976 to the Present*

Scruton, Roger. *Conservatism and Liberalism*

---

Wed. 23 5. **Traditional Political Science**

**Lieber, Francis.** The Ancient and Modern Teacher of Politics [5]

Jennings, Jeremy. *Beacon of Liberty Amid Depression* (Colloque Lippmann)

**Collateral**


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Fri. 25 6. **Christian Anthropology**

**Girard, Rene.** I See Satan Fall Like Lightning (excerpt) [6]

**Applications**
Fernandez, Richard. *The Day of Disaster*

IPT News. *Berman Book Showcases Intellectual Double Standards on Islamists*

Levinson, William A. *Harry Potter and the Islamization of America* (inc. videos)

NOTE: The plans for Churchill’s secret army are dramatized in a film, “Hitler’s Britain,” which includes interviews of some of its veterans.

Sage, Steven F. *The Playwright Hitler Plagiarized*

**Collateral: Illustrations of Girard’s Mimetic Theory**
Bostom, Andrew G. *The Nazis Find a Home in Post-Mubarak Egypt*

Donald Duck in *The Fuehrer’s Face*

Farsi Christian News Network. *Banditry and Extortion Replace Apostasy Charges for Youcef Nadarkhani* (He was subsequently acquitted but return to Christmas at Christmas)

Jones, Ryan. *Book Burning in Cairo*

Miller, Abraham H. *The Sociopath We All Know and Sometimes Love*
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<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>Hard Despotism</strong>&lt;br&gt;M. 1 [Minogue study aids are in part 2 of the workbook];&lt;br&gt;Herodotus/Kapuściński [7]&lt;br&gt;Callahan, Gene. <em>Michael Oakeshott on Rationalism in Politics</em>&lt;br&gt;Kuehnelt-Ledl, Erik von. <em>Democracy's Road to Tyranny</em>&lt;br&gt;Collateral&lt;br&gt;Anerson, Jourdan. <em>To My Old Master</em></td>
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<td><strong>Citizenship</strong>&lt;br&gt;M. 2&lt;br&gt;Thucydides [8]&lt;br&gt;Fustel de Coulanges, Numa Denis (Blackboard)&lt;br&gt;Phillips, Melanie. <em>Britain's Liberal Intelligentsia Has Smashed Virtually Every</em></td>
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SECOND TEST: M. 3-6; Readings 9-12


Wed. 13

14. Political Pedagogy
M. 8
- Lincoln, Abraham. The Lyceum Address [14]
- Roberts, Andrew. Simplification
- Bagehot, Walter. The English Constitution
- Gelernter, David. Dismantling of a Culture
- Stern, Sol. Pedagogy of the Oppressor

Fri. 15

15. Factions and the Public Interest
M. 9
- Ryn, Claes. The New Jacobinism: Can Democracy Survive? (Blackboard)

Collateral
- Bell, Jeffrey. The Case for Polarized Politics
- Cohen, Nick. Dishonourable Members (on Oborne’s book)
- Oborne, Peter. The Triumph of the Political Class
- Tucker, Jeffrey. The Fed’s Men Behind the Curtain

Mon. 18

16. Voluntarism: The (Collective) Will as Sovereign
M. 10
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques [16]
- Talmon, J. L. The Totalitarian Messianic Temperament of Rousseau
- Stackhouse, Max. The Social Creed
- Kinneging, Andreas. Rousseau

Collateral
- Reilly, Robert R. John Cage

Wed. 20

17. The Heart of the Matter:
M. 11
- Sumner, William Graham. The Forgotten Man [17]
- Mitchell, William C., and Randy T. Simmons. Beyond Politics
- Munger, Michael. Rent-Seek and You Will Find (Munger is the security guard in the second Keynes vs. Hayek rap video)

Application: How the Legal Plunder Shell Game Works Today
- Cochrane, John H. The Real Trouble with the Birth Control Mandate

Collateral
- Crockett, David. Not Yours to Give
- Folk, Justin. The Spending Is Nuts (YouTube)
- Glod, Bill. Concerned about People Harming Themselves? Pay Them to Stop
- Ross, Kelley L. Rent-Seeking, Public Choice, and the Prisoner’s Dilemma
- Tulloch, Gordon. The Fundamentals of Rent-Seeking

UNIT 4
Fri. 22

18. The Idyllic (Ideological) Imagination Revisited
M. 12
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels [18]
- Sowell, Thomas. The Quest for Cosmic Justice
- Anderson, Brian C. Capitalism and the Suicide of Culture
- Havel, Vaclav. The Parable of the Greengrocer
- Legutko, Ryszard. Communism and Liberal Democracy

Collateral
- Cary, Lee on Charles Rowley. An Unwelcome Message for Obama
- Harding College, 1948: Make Mine Freedom
- Obama, Barack. Interview: Redistribution of Wealth, 2001
- Rothbard, Murray. What Changes and What Does Not
Mon. 25
19. **Soft Despotism**
   
   **M. 13**
   
   **Tocqueville, Alexis de** [19]
   
   Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik von. Alexis de Tocqueville
   
   Nisbet, Robert. *The New Despotism*
   
   Weissberg, Robert. *Dependency, the Liberals’ Natural Resource*
   
   **Collateral**
   
   Emery, Noemie. *The Pathology of Power*
   
   
   **THIRD TEST:** M. 7-11, Readings 13-16

Wed. 27
20. **Modern Political Science**

   **Matt. 10:16**
   
   Williamson, René [20] *Reflections of a Political Scientist* (reprinted in workbook)
   
   Lewis, C. S. The Self-Contradiction of the Naturalist
   
   Hallowell, John H. Thurman Arnold on the “Thinking Man”
   
   **Applications**
   
   Lipsman, Ron. *Swimming Upstream: The Life of a Conservative Professor in Academia*
   
   Spakovsky, Hans A. von. *In Washington, Conservatives Are Never Really in Power, Part I*

March

Fri. 1
21. **Recessional**

   **Kurth, James** [21] *The Protestant Deformation and American Foreign Policy*
   
   Demant, V. A. Theology of Society
   
   Kuehnelt-Leddihn Erik von (Campbell, Francis Stuart). Whiff from the Empty Bottle (Blackboard)
   
   Winthrop, Robert. Address to the Bible Society of Boston
   
   **Collateral**
   
   
   Mahoney, Daniel. *Whittaker Chambers: Witness to the Crisis of the Modern Soul*

Mon. 4
22. **Nihilism: The Diabolic Imagination Revisited**

   **Wells, H. G.** The New Republic [22]
   
   Toledano, Ralph de. Comrade Lukacs and the Road to Frankfurt
   
   Anderson, Brian C. The Ineducable Left
   
   Dawson, Christopher. *Contra Mundum*
   
   **Collateral**
   
   Whittaker Chambers Symposium: The History of Witness and Contemporary Conservatism, Yale University, November 30, 2012.
   
   First and Third Videos
   
   Goldberg, Jonah. *Green Fervor, Red Blood*
   
   Walker, Bruce. *The Diamond Anniversary of Dehumanization*

Wed. 6
23. **Disinformation and Subversion**

   Carter, Joe. *How to Destroy a Culture in 5 Easy Steps*
   
   Machiavelli, Niccolò. *In What Way Princes Should Keep Faith (Their Word)*
   
   Minogue, Kenneth [23]. *How Civilizations Fall*
   
   Kupelian, David. *In Government We Trust* (from *How Evil Works*)
   
   **Collateral**
   
   Angier, Natalie. *The Pathological Altruist Gives Until Someone Hurts*
   

24. **Freeing Markets as a Moral Imperative**

   Gates, Frederick T.
   
   Kafka, Franz
   
   Harris. Lee. *Planned Austerity*
   
   Hayek, Friedrich A. *The Road to Serfdom (condensed)* or
Quotations

“If you want something passionately enough, it is guaranteed by the Constitution. No need to fiddle around gathering votes from recalcitrant citizens.” – Robert Bork in A Time to Speak

“The modern world, according to Georges Bernanos [author of Diary of a Country Priest and Under the Sun of Satan], is a vast conspiracy against the inner life. . . . The great success of late modernity is that it produces that form of slavery which Vauvenargues described as a slavery that ‘abases human beings to the point of making itself loved for doing it.'” – Philippe Bénéton

“The Gospel came to the Greeks and the Greeks turned it into a philosophy. The Gospel came to the Romans and the Romans turned it into a system. The Gospel came to the Europeans and the Europeans turned it into a culture. The Gospel came to America and the Americans turned it into a business.” – anonymous pastor at a conference in Europe

“We are going to try to take all of the money we think is unnecessarily being spent and take it from the ‘haves’ and give it to the ‘have nots’ that need it so much.” – Lyndon Johnson, speech at the White House, January 15, 1964

“In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” – George Orwell

“People who bite the hand that feeds them usually lick the boot that kicks them.” – Eric Hoffer

“Intellectuals cannot operate at room temperature.” – Eric Hoffer

“If I were a rich man, I would pay for the privilege of teaching.” – Edward J. Rozek

“We asked for freedom of the press, thought, and civil liberties in the past because we were in the opposition and needed these liberties to conquer. Now that we have conquered, there is no longer any need for such civil liberties.” – Nikolai Bukharin

“There is only one way to shorten and ease the convulsions of the old society and the bloody birth pangs of the new -- revolutionary terror.” – Karl Marx

“Kill all the rich people. Break up their cars and apartments. Bring the revolution home, kill your parents.” -- Bill Ayers

Knightly Quotations by Erik Ritter von Kuehnelt-Leddihn:

“The modern nations of the Christian West, one has to admit, have grown to maturity and old age for more than a century and a half in the framework of a liberal democracy. Egalitarianism, a petty nationalism and an emotional amateurism were the swaddling clothes of the New World and the Old which now threaten to suffocate them. These garments will become their shrouds unless they cast them off like the rising Lazarus.”

“Modern man is a hard driven nomad without any stability, not (as the Bible has it) a wanderer or a pilgrim, but a refugee—an escapist. Instead of meditation and reflection there is only speed, fear and ‘distraction.'
“What we need is minimal government of the highest quality instead of what we now have in the Western world, maximal government of the lowest order.”

Scienda (Wiktionary): (Plural only) In the social and political philosophy of Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn, it is the sum of all the political, economic, technological, scientific, military, geographical, and psychological knowledge that a governing body must possess to allow it to reach logically, rationally, and morally sound conclusions. Usually contrasted with scita.

XI. Bibliography

See separate file on Blackboard