Course Description:
Classical liberalism contends that the purpose of civil society and government is to secure the peaceful enjoyment of natural individual rights –life, liberty and property. Liberalism makes a distinction between private and public domains, and understands the public domain to be limited by and subservient to the private domain. This understanding constituted a major departure from all political thought that preceded it, from Greek, to Roman and Medieval Christian. The protection of one’s life, liberty and property became the goals of civil society; no longer was public life considered an important or legitimate component of striving towards the good life.

In this course we will be reading several key authors who helped define the contours of liberalism, as well as ones who argued that liberalism is deficient in certain important respects. We will concentrate on the way of life encouraged by a liberal understanding of politics. We will ask ourselves, by engaging with these thinkers, whether the *bourgeois*, the type of human being that founding liberals Hobbes and Locke sought to bring into being, leads a good and satisfying life.

By reading, analyzing, and writing about these important texts students in this course gain familiarity with key theoretical and historical developments in political thought, improve their critical thinking, and communication skills.

Readings:
The following are REQUIRED texts. They can be purchased at either of the campus bookstores.


**ISBN-10:** 0915144867  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0915144860
**ISBN-10:** 022615131X  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0226151311

**ISBN-10:** 039309040X  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0393090406

**ISBN-10:** 0915144433  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0915144433

**ISBN-10:** 0679724656  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0679724650

**ISBN-10:** 0743284550  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0743284554

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Attendance:**

Your attendance is an important component of the course. 10% of your course grade will depend on your attendance. Attendance will be recorded via the Blackboard Course Tool meant for this function. It will calculate all attendance days equally, with deductions for absences, lateness, and early leaving. Please note that only illness documented with medical notes, school-sanctioned activities, or religious observance count as excused absences.

Your participation is also recommended and will be noted. To do well on the material, it is important to interact actively in class.

2. **Reading:**
All reading assignments must be completed BEFORE the beginning of the relevant class. Please keep in mind that your ability to participate effectively will depend on your diligence in completing the readings as assigned. All readings as well as all lecture material are fair game for tests and examinations. You must study your readings and take good notes in class in order to do well on the tests and examinations.

Since particular passages of the text will be referred to and read in class, please bring the appropriate texts to class.

3. Tests and Assignments:

i) *Quizzes* (10% each). There will be two quizzes in the course of the semester. Quizzes will not be cumulative, but will test limited material that will be specified in class.

ii) *Mid-Term Test* (15%). Cumulative test, largely comparative in nature.

iii) Paper (25%). This paper will be interpretive rather than research-based. Essay topics will be handed out in the first few weeks of the course. Exact parameters will be spelled out at that time. Papers will be submitted in class AND through Safe Assign.

iv) *Final Exam* (30%). The final exam will take place at the University mandated exam time. It will deal with the themes covered throughout the course, which is to say, it is a comprehensive exam. It will be comprised of essay questions for the most part.

**Honors Students.** Please note that your work will be graded in a more rigorous manner than students not in this program. Higher standards will apply to your work.

**Grading Scheme:**

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Quizzes: 20% (10% each)
- Midterm Test: 15%
- Term Essay: 25%
- Final Exam: 30%

**Grading Scale:**
93%-100% = A  
90%-92.9% = A-  
87.5%-89.9% = B+  

83%-87.4% = B  
80%-82.9% = B-  
77.5%-79.9% = C+  

70%-77.4% = C  
60%-69.9% = D  
Less than 60% = F

**Lateness Policy:**
Quizzes and midterm exam will not be rescheduled unless there are extraordinary circumstances that make it impossible for the student to complete work or come to class. Let it be clear that only EXTRAORDINARY and unexpected circumstances will be considered. For example, a heavy workload within or without the university does not count as extraordinary—and neither does a common cold or traffic problems. If there is a serious medical or personal problem that has impeded the student’s ability to do his or her work, then please let the professor know and bring supporting documentation. NO consideration will be given to those students who do not alert the professor of a problem prior to the due date of an assignment, presentation or exam.

For the essay, if it is not handed in on time (at the beginning of the class period when it is due), late penalties will apply. Each day of lateness will cost you 5% of your essay grade. Penalties accrue each day, including weekends and holidays, until the paper is received. For example, if you hand in the paper after the class period but on the same day the paper is due, you will incur a 5% penalty. Another 5% will accrue the following day, and so on. In principle, there are NO exceptions to this policy. This is a term paper. You will have over two months to work on it. It is your responsibility to work on it in a timely fashion such that last minute colds or work load surges or personal problems don’t get in the way of your assignment. You are encouraged to seek guidance from the professor on the essay itself early in the semester to avoid last minute difficulties.

**Class Decorum:**
You are expected to be courteous and collegial in this class. Here are some of the decorum guidelines:
• Be on time for class.
• Do not leave during class.
• Respect your classmates.
• Do not interrupt your colleagues, and make sure that your comments are civil. Discussion is wonderful and encouraged, but it is only possible when we listen to one another and make comments that are courteous.
• Do not disrupt lectures. No cell phones, no private conversations, no snoring. If you wish to interrupt to ask a question, please put your hand up. Questions are encouraged!
**Unannounced Quizzes:**
The professor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes if it becomes clear that students are not doing the assigned reading, and the quality of class participation and discussion is unsatisfactory.

**Religious Observance:**
If classes or assignments coincide with your religious observance, please let the professor know as soon as possible so that you can be accommodated.

**Extra Credit:**
Extra credit assignments will not be given on an individual basis to raise final grades.

**University Attendance Policy:**

If a student will be absent from classes for a week or more because of an accident, illness, or other emergency, instructors will be notified of the absence only if students or their parents request it through the Division of Student Affairs. Health Services will not release information about students unless they provide a written request.

Leaves of absence will be granted for volunteer services related to disaster relief in accordance with applicable Illinois statutes or executive orders issued by the State of Illinois in response to emergency situations. To initiate a leave of absence, students should contact their College Dean's office, or the vice provost (or the vice provost's delegate) for any student who has no college affiliation. Following the period of volunteer service, Registration and Records will facilitate reenrollment of the student.

Students are expected to comply with each individual instructor's established attendance policy. It is recommended that students avoid registering for classes in which they would amass significant absences. In the case of an absence due to required attendance at a university-sponsored event such as a department trip, performing arts activity, ROTC function, or athletic competition, reasonable attempts shall be made by faculty members to allow the student to make up missed work. Students are responsible for completing the work assigned and/or due on the days they are absent for university-sponsored events. Both the sponsoring unit and the student should inform the faculty member as soon as possible in the semester in order for arrangements to be made for completing missed assignments, examinations or other required course work. The
student is required to provide each instructor with an official notification in advance of the absence (e.g., a letter from the chair of the sponsoring department, the head of the sponsoring unit, or the coach).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu.

Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations. Please note that you will not be required to disclose your disability, only your accommodations. The sooner you let me know your needs, the sooner I can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic Integrity:

University Policy: Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.

A faculty member has original jurisdiction over any instances of academic misconduct that occur in a course which the faculty member is teaching. The student shall be given the opportunity to resolve the matter in meetings with the faculty member and the department chair. If the facts of the incident are not disputed by the student, the faculty member may elect to resolve the matter at that level by levying a sanction no greater than an F for that course. The faculty member shall notify the student in writing whenever such action is taken, and the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct shall receive a copy of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report indicating final disposition of the case, which will be placed in the student's judicial file. In all matters where the charge of academic misconduct is disputed by the student or if the faculty member feels a sanction greater than an F in the course is appropriate (such as repeated offenses or flagrant violations), the faculty member shall refer the matter to the Office of
Community Standards and Student Conduct making use of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report. Additional sanctions greater than an F in a course can be levied only through the University Judicial System. With regards to finding the student either responsible or not responsible for his or her action, the ruling of the Judicial Hearing Board shall be binding. In cases where there is either a finding of responsibility or an admission of responsibility by the student, any recommendations by the hearing board regarding the course grade are non-binding on the instructor, who remains solely responsible for assigning a course grade, consistent with the policies set forth in the course syllabus.

**Course policy:** This course adheres to the University policy elaborated above. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported, and course sanctions will range from an F on the assignment to an F in the course based on the severity of the misconduct. In addition, please note that this instructor considers it academic misconduct to hand in an assignment for this course that has already been handed in for another course. Students are expected to produce new work for this course, as well as to avoid copying or relying on the work of others, particularly without attribution.

**Undergraduate Writing Awards**
The Department of Political Science recognizes, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies, such as independent studies or honors theses. Winners are expected to attend the Department’s spring graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and a check for $100.00. No more than two papers may be submitted by a student. There is no requirement as to the length of papers submitted for the award. Often the Department awards prizes for both an outstanding short paper and an outstanding long paper. The number and types of award is dependent upon the papers submitted for consideration in any given year. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Only papers written in the previous calendar year are considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year’s competition even if the student has graduated. Papers can be submitted by students or faculty and must be supplied in triplicate to the undergraduate secretary. All copies must have two cover pages – one with the student’s name and one without the student’s name. Papers are not to be stapled or bound. Instead, please use paper clips. Papers are generally due in March and notice of call for papers and submission deadlines will be published on the Department’s Facebook page. You may also contact the department for information at 753-1015.

**Department of Political Science Web Site**
Undergraduates are encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to http://polisci.niu.edu. For the most up-to-date information on scholarships, internships, and other department news, I encourage you to “like” the department on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/NIU.PoliticalScience) or follow us on Twitter (@niupols).

**Course Outline and Due Dates:** The assignment and test dates are set in stone. The lecture schedule indicates the order in which we will be reading the works, and what excerpts we will be reading from the various authors. It is very likely that there will be some deviation from the schedule below, day to day. To know how to prepare for each class, it is crucial that you are always present.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fukuyama, <em>End of History</em>, Part I, Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Locke, Second Treatise, Chapters 1, 2 and 5</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
<td>Locke, <em>Second Treatise</em>, Chapters 9-14, 19</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>Writing tests tutorial</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>Rousseau, <em>Second Discourse</em>, First Part con’d</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Rousseau, <em>Second Discourse</em>, Second Part</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Rousseau, <em>Second Discourse</em>, Second Part con’d</td>
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<td>September 25</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>Rousseau, <em>Social Contract</em>, Book II</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>Rousseau, <em>Social Contract</em>, Book III, Book IV chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Mill, <em>On Liberty</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Mill, <em>On Liberty</em> Chapters 3 and 4</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Con’d and review for midterm</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>Marx, German Ideology, pp.146-200</td>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td>Marx, German Ideology, con’d</td>
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<td>October 30</td>
<td>Marx, <em>Communist Manifesto</em></td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>Marx, <em>Communist Manifesto</em>, con’d</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>Nietzsche, <em>Beyond Good &amp; Evil</em>, “Nietzsche’s Preface” (p.1); “On the Natural History of Morals” (p. 95-118)</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
<td>Nietzsche, <em>Beyond Good &amp; Evil</em>, “Natural History of Morals,” con’d.</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>Nietzsche, <em>Beyond Good &amp; Evil</em>, “Our Virtues” (p.143-170)</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
<td>Nietzsche, <em>Beyond Good &amp; Evil</em>, “Peoples and Fatherlands” (p.171-198)</td>
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<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>Fukuyama, <em>End of History</em>, Part II, Chapter 5; Part III</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>Fukuyama, <em>End of History</em>, Part III, con’d</td>
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<td>November 29</td>
<td>Fukuyama, <em>End of History</em>, Part V</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Fukuyama, <em>End of History</em>, Part V con’d</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Papers Due</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>Review</td>
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**Final Exam**: Thursday, December 13 -10:00am-11:50am. Same classroom.