

POL 3786 - Political Thought 2

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 44080,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Adam Fuller

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adam L. Fuller, Ph.D.

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Political Science, Claremont Graduate University

Master of Arts, Political Science, University of British Columbia

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Course Description

3786. Political Thought 2. The development of western political thought from the Renaissance to the Modern period. Among the major figures treated: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Smith, Publius, Tocqueville, and Mill. Prereq.: 9 s.h. of Political Science. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Leviathan	Thomas Hobbes	
Required	The Second Treatise of Government	John Locke	
Required	The Prince	Niccolo Machiavelli	
Required	The Spirit of the Laws	Baron Charles de Montesquieu	
Required	On the Social Contract	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	
Required	The Federalist Papers	Publius	

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	No reading	Course Introduction, Introduction to Political Thought	
8/31	Machiavelli, "Dedicatory Letter," Chapters 1-7	Machiavelli's The Prince	
9/7	Machiavelli, Chapters 8-15	Machiavelli's The Prince	
9/14	Machiavelli, Chapters 16-24	Machiavelli's The Prince	
9/21	Machiavelli, Chapters 25-27	Machiavelli's The Prince	
9/28	Hobbes, Chapters 1-5	Exam 1, Hobbes, Leviathan	Exam 1
10/5	Hobbes, Chapters 6-10	Hobbes' Leviathan	
10/12	Hobbes, Chapters 11-15	Hobbes' Leviathan	

10/19	Locke, Chapters 1-10	Locke's Second Treatise of Government	
10/26	Locke, Chapters 11-20	Locke's Second Treatise of Government	
11/2	Locke, Chapters 21-29	Locke's Second Treatise of Government	Exam #2
11/9	Rousseau, Books 1 and 2	Rousseau's Social Contract	
11/16	Rousseau, Books 3 and 4	Rousseau's Social Contract	In-Class Writing Assignment
11/23	Montesquieu, Books 1 and 11	Montesquieu's Spirit of the Laws	
11/30	The Federalist Papers 1-10, 50-76	The Federalist	
12/7	No reading	Finals Week	Exam #3

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.