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Political Theory, Romanian American University, Syllabus

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POLITICAL THEORY
Romanian American University
Steven Alan Samson, Ph.D.
March 2013

CLASS SCHEDULE
(Subject to Revision)

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](#)
Hoven, Randall. [The Swedish Model: Government Austerity](#)
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 Despotism](#)

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](#)
- 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
 Giuliani, Rudolph. [What New York Owes James Q. Wilson](#)
 Kurth, James. [Samuel Huntington \(1927–2008\): Ideas Have Consequences](#)
- Fri. 25 6. **Christian Anthropology**
Girard, René. 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](#)

- Poe, Richard. [Little Secret about the Nazis](#)
 Plaut, Steven. [Nazis in the Ivory Tower](#)
 Podhoretz, John. [A Fan's Notes](#)
 Santana, Rebecca, and Zarar Khan. [Pakistani Police Arrest Christian Girl's Accuser](#) (scapegoating backfired on the accuser, who faces blasphemy charges)
- Mon. 28 7. **Hard Despotism**
M. 1 [Minogue study aids are in part 2 of the workbook];
Herodotus/Kapuściński [7]
 Callahan, Gene. [Michael Oakeshott on Rationalism in Politics](#)
 Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik von. [Democracy's Road to Tyranny](#)
Collateral
 Anerson, Jourdan. [To My Old Master](#)
- Wed. 30 8. **Citizenship**
M. 2
Thucydides [8]
 Fustel de Coulanges, Numa Denis (Blackboard)
 Phillips, Melanie. [Britain's Liberal Intelligentsia Has Smashed Virtually Every](#)
- Social Value
UNIT 2
- Fri. 1 9. **Patriotism**
M. 3
Livy (Titus Livius) [9]
 Machiavelli. Disunion of the Plebs and the Senate
FIRST TEST: Readings 1-8, M. 1-2, Herodotus/Kapuściński, Thucydides
- Mon. 4 10. **Christendom: Justice and Resistance to Tyranny**
M. 4
Augustine [10]
 Aquinas, Thomas. Of Princely Government
 Rushdoony, R. J. Kingship and Law
 Calvin, John. On Civil Government
 Rutherford, Samuel. Lex, Rex
- Wed. 6 11. **The Centralized State**
M. 5
Hobbes, Thomas [11]
 Evans, M. Stanton. The Uses of Tradition
 Radosh, Ronald. [A Story Told Before](#)
Collateral
 Radosh, Ron. [Edward I. Koch, 1924-2013: Some Remembrances](#)
 Radosh, Ron. [Thoughts on My 75th Birthday](#)
- Fri. 8 12. **Limited Government**
M. 6
Locke, John [12]
 Webster, Daniel. The Spirit of Liberty
 Federalism in Australia and America
 Krauthammer, Charles. [The Gospel According to Obama](#)
 Sowell, Thomas. [Fables for Adults](#)
Thatcher, Margaret. [Speech to General Assembly of the Church of Scotland](#)
Collateral
 Cameron, David. [Speech on the King James Bible](#)
- UNIT 3**
- Mon. 11 13. **The Achillean Rage of Nations**
M. 7
Hume, David. On the Balance of Power [13]
 Codevilla, Angelo. The International Community
 Weil, Simone. The Iliad
 Rabkin, Jeremy. [The Constitution and American Sovereignty](#)

SECOND TEST: M. 3-6; Readings 9-12

Short Essay: Atbashian, Hoven, Mabray, Mead, Pethokoukis, Steyn (2), Evans (2), Kohlmayer, Rowley, Raskin, Kuehnelt-Leddihn (2), Postman, Jennings, Fernandez, Levinson, IPT News, Sage, Plaut, Callahan, Phillips, Radosh (3), Krauthammer, Sowell, Thatcher, Readings 7-12

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

Burke, Edmund. The Moral Imagination [15]

Ryn, Claes. The New Jacobinism: Can Democracy Survive? (Blackboard)

Collateral

Bell, Jeffrey. The Case for Polarized Politics

Cohen, Nick. [Dishonourable Members](#) (on Osborne's book)

Osborne, 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 Sowell, Thomas (set to lively music): [An English Primer, 1985](#)
 19. **Soft Despotism**
M. 13
Tocqueville, Alexis de [19]
 Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik von. Alexis de Tocqueville
 Nisbet, Robert A. [The New Despotism](#)
 Weissberg, Robert. [Dependency, the Liberals' Natural Resource Collateral](#)
 Emery, Noemie. [The Pathology of Power](#)
 Kesler, Charles. [The New New Deal](#)
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
 Edwards, Lee. [Whittaker Chambers: Man of Courage and Faith](#)
 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](#)
 Kupelian, David [23]. [How Gay Rights Is Being "Sold" to America](#) (from *The Marketing of Evil*)
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**

[The Road to Serfdom \(condensed\)](#)

Hayek, Friedrich A. [The Road to Serfdom \(Cartoons\)](#)

[Singer, C. Gregg](#). On the Keynesian Ideology (Blackboard)

Video: Methodological Individualism Dramatized

[Keynes vs. Hayek in Epic Economic Rap Battle](#) (paired with Round 1) **and/or**

Rothman, Josh. [Keynes vs. Hayek: The Epic Rap Battle](#) (includes some lyrics)

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