POLITICAL SCIENCE 4340 (Formerly 4040)
Contemporary Political Theory
Spring Semester 2008

TIME: 5:00-7:30 R
PLACE: 3304 Haley Center

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jardine
OFFICE: 7066 Haley Center
OFFICE HOURS: 2:00-3:00 R and by appointment
TELEPHONE: 844-6162
EMAIL: jardimu@auburn.edu (messages sent on weekdays will receive a reply within 24 hours)

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1950)

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:
This course will introduce students to contemporary political theory. It will be primarily concerned with the question of moral truth and its relation to political order. We will begin by briefly reviewing the issues discussed in POLI 3020, Introduction to Political Theory, focusing on the crisis of the modern worldview which became manifest in the twentieth century. We will then examine the major post-World War II schools of thought in political theory, including both philosophers and systematic theologians who address the fundamental issues of political order.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The class will be conducted as a directed discussion. This means that students must be fully prepared in order to understand and participate in the class discussions. For each class, there will be a reading assignment and a writing assignment in which students will summarize and analyze the reading assignment. Students must attend class to submit the writing assignments. Reading assignments will average about 100 pages per class. Students are encouraged to bring the readings to class.
Grades will be based on two five-page papers (25% each), a comprehensive final examination (25%), and writing assignments, calculated as the percentage of study questions satisfactorily completed (25%). Makeup assignments or exams will be permitted only if a written excuse is presented for illness or injury; serious illness, injury, or death in the family; religious holidays; subpoenaed court appearances; official university activities; or military duty. No extra credit assignments will be given or accepted.

The grading scale for all examinations, assignments, and the final grade is as follows:
A 90+
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F <60

Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. Discuss items needed in this class. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Tiger Cub.

Students may withdraw (although with a W on their transcript) until midsemester.
Make-ups for all missed and late work are allowed with proper University approved excuses within one week of the original due date.
Student emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.
The final exam will be given at the University set time and date.

Class attendance is required.

All readings are to be completed before coming to class.

There are no unannounced quizzes.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS
*indicates reading on library reserve
**indicates reading on library electronic reserve

INTRODUCTION
JAN 10 Introduction--no reading assignment

I. THE CRISIS OF MODERN RATIONALISM
JAN 17
**Murray Jardine, *Issues in Contemporary Political Theory*
*Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
*Isaiah Berlin, *Two Concepts of Liberty,* in Michael Sandel, ed. *Liberalism and Its Critics*

II. PHILOSOPHICAL RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS OF MODERN RATIONALISM
A. Neoclassicism: Recovering Reason
JAN 24 Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History*

B. Postmodernism: Deconstructing Reason
JAN 31
*Martin Heidegger, *"The Question Concerning Technology," in David Farrell Krell, ed., *Basic Writings*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

C. Critical Theory and Communitarianism: Reconstructing Reason
FEB 7
*Jurgen Habermas, *Knowledge and Human Interests, Appendix*
Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*
**Alasdair MacIntyre, *"Epistemological Crises, Dramatic Narratives, and the Philosophy of Science*
FEB 14
Eric Voegelin, *The New Science of Politics*
**Murray Jardine, *"Eric Voegelin's Interpretation(s) of Modernity"*
FEB 21
Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
**William H. Poteat, *"A Skeleton Key to Arendt's The Human Condition"*

FEB 27 PAPER #1

III. THEOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS OF MODERN RATIONALISM
A. Background: Christian Theology to the Enlightenment
FEB 28
Bernhard Lohse, *Short History of Christian Doctrine: From the First Century to the Present*

B. Post-Enlightenment Trends in Protestantism
MAR 6
*Friedrich Schleiermacher, *On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers*
Paul Tillich, *The Essential Tillich*
MAR 13
*Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*
Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Nature and Destiny of Man*

C. Twentieth Century Catholic Theology
MAR 27
Henri de Lubac, *The Mystery of the Supernatural*
APR 3
Karl Rahner, *Foundations of Christian Faith*
*Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Credo*

D. Recent Theological Alternatives to Modern Rationalism
APR 10
James K. Smith, *Introducing Radical Orthodoxy: Mapping a Post-Secular Theology*
APR 17
Colin Gunton, *The One, the Three, and the Many: God, Creation, and the Culture of Modernity*
*Joseph Ratzinger, *Introduction to Christianity*

APR 23 PAPER #2

CONCLUSION
APR 24
Review and Conclusion--no reading assignment

MAY 7 FINAL EXAM—7:00 PM TO 9:30 PM