MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT RECITATION
POLI 271 SECTIONS 604, 607, 608
SPRING 2010

TA: Amanda Cook
Contact: cookanb@email.unc.edu
Office hours: Mondays 12pm-1:30; Thursdays 11am-12:30 in Hamilton 301
Or by appointment.

**Recitation expectations:** You are expected to come to recitation prepared to critically discuss assigned readings and topics from lecture. Please consult the “Recitation Assignments” document on Blackboard before recitation. In order to participate successfully, you should read all assigned material carefully, review lecture notes, prepare questions, and engage thoughtfully with the material to determine how it is relevant to us as students, as people, and as citizens.

**Classroom policies:** Turn off cell phones before class starts (this means no texting during class). Laptops are prohibited in recitation; this class is discussion-based, so the instructional benefit of laptops is outweighed by their potential for distraction. You will find adequate time to jot down on paper any notes you wish to record.

**Email policy:** Feel free to email me whenever you have a quick question. I will get back to you reasonably quickly. However, longer discussions and all questions about grades should take place during my office hours.

**Class participation grade:** Participation is worth **35% of your overall grade** in this course; the participation grade will be based on recitation attendance, participation (both quality and frequency) in recitation discussion, and your attendance at lecture when you are called.

**Attendance and participation policies:** Attendance will be taken each week. For each recitation that you miss, your participation grade will be reduced by 1.0 GPA. If you miss five or more recitations, you will receive an “F” for the course. (Please be on time; three lates will be counted as an absence.) In addition to attendance, participation in recitation discussions is **required**—if you find that talking in class makes you uncomfortable, please come see me **now** so we can discuss how you can succeed in this class. Thoughtful participation by each student is essential for good class discussions.

**Guidelines for discussion and participation:** It is important that our class discussions are marked by mutual respect. Remember that good participation in a class discussion requires active and open-minded listening in addition to talking. This means that students who are hesitant to talk will need to work on formulating their thoughts and speaking up and that students who are prone to over-talking will need to work on selectively holding back and bringing up only relevant points or questions. You will need to back up your arguments with evidence from the readings, so **bring the texts to class with you.** Never hesitate to ask a question if you are unclear about a point made in lecture or in our class discussion. When we all follow these guidelines, our discussions will be open, respectful, and engaging.

**Guidelines for essay submission:** Please consult the essay schedule (separate handout) for due dates and essay/peer review assignments. All assignments are due by the time of your recitation on
the due date (so if your peer review is due on Thursday, and you have recitation at 11am on Mondays, the review is due by 11am on Thursday). Submission of the first version of your essay should be over email to the peer reviewers and to me. This version of the essay will not be given a formal grade, but will be checked to make sure that it is the quality of a final draft. The peer reviewers will email their reviews back to the essay writer and to me by the due date. Peer reviews will not be given a formal grade, but sub-par reviews will result in penalty of the reviewer’s essay grade (-0.5 GPA for marginal reviews, -1.0 GPA for substandard reviews). The final draft of the essay is due in recitation as a hard copy (note: the final essay should not be emailed).

*Every time you email me an essay or review, I will confirm by email that I received it. If you do not hear back from me by the evening on which you sent the document, the onus is on you to make sure that I have received it.*

**Grading policies:** Papers will be turned in to me and graded by me. Late work is assigned a grade of "F," although you will receive credit for completing the requirement. After graded papers are handed back, there will be a 48-hour “cooling off” period during which you cannot approach me about your grade. At that point, I will entertain questions about grades. Since I will be looking at your paper with fresh eyes, I reserve the right to give you a new grade that is lower than your original grade if that is appropriate. That said, if you believe you received an unfair grade, do not hesitate to bring it to my attention—but the burden of proof is on you. If at any point in the semester you are unsure how you are doing in the class, I will be happy to let you know where you stand and what improvements can be made in your performance.

**Recitation meets every week except:**
- No recitations Friday March 5 or Monday March 15.
- No recitations Friday April 2 or Monday April 5.
- Last day of recitation is Friday April 16 (for section 607) or Monday April 19 (for sections 604 and 608).