

UST 831

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SPRING 2006

Prof. Michael Spicer  
UR 225  
Tel:  
Office: 687-3571  
Home: 440-892-9640  
(Weekdays, before 5 p.m.)

Phone-Mail: 687-3571

E-mail: mike@wolf.csuohio.edu

Office Hours:  
Tuesday 3-6pm (Except 3/14)  
Thursday 5-6pm (At West Campus)(Except 2/9 and 3/16)  
OR by appointment

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an understanding of basic ideas in political philosophy and the way in which these ideas have helped shape public administration discourse.
2. To help students become more aware of the philosophical presuppositions regarding the nature of the state which undergird the writings of different public administration scholars
3. To help students make use of philosophical writings in constructing arguments and conceptual frameworks in public administration

II. COURSE READINGS

A. Required Texts

Thomas D. Lynch and Peter L. Cruise. 2005. *Handbook of organization theory and management: the philosophical approach*. Second Edition. Marcel Dekker: New York. (L & C)

Aeon J. Skoble and Tibor R. Machan. 1999. *Political philosophy: Essential selections*. Prentice-Hall: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. (S & M)

Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey. 1987. *History of Political Philosophy*. Third Edition. University of Chicago Press. (S & C)

## B. Recommended Text

Jay Shafritz, Albert Hyde, and Sandra Parkes (eds.). 2004. *Classics of Public Administration*. Wadsworth: Belmont, California. (Earlier editions of this would be OK)

## C. Reserve Readings

Jeremy Bentham. 1995. "The Principle of Utility." In Isaac Kramnick (ed.), *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*. New York: Penguin Books.

Isaiah Berlin. 1992. "The Pursuit of the Ideal." In I. Berlin, *The Proper Study of Mankind*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.

Michael Diamond, 1992. "Hobbesian and Rousseauian Identities," *Administration and Society*, Vol. 24, 267-289.

Frederick the Great. 1995. "Benevolent Despotism." In Isaac Kramnick (ed.), *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*. New York: Penguin Books.

J.G. Herder. 1969. "Yet Another Philosophy of History." In F.M. Barnard (ed.), *Herder on Social and Political Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 181-188.

"Husserl" in Morton White. *The Age of Analysis*. New York: Signet Books.

William Richardson. 1991. "The Constitution and Administrative Ethics in America." *Administration and Society*, Vol. 23, 275-287

Mark R. Rutgers. "Can the Study of Public Administration Do Without a Concept of the State: Reflections on the Work of Lorenz Von Stein," *Administration and Society*, Vol. 26, 395-412.

Michael W. Spicer. 2004. The English Levellers and American Public Administration. *Administrative Theory and Praxis*, Vol. 26(4), 566-587.

Michael W. Spicer. 2004. "Public Administration, the History of Ideas, and the Reinventing Government Movement." Public Administration Review. Vol. 64(3), 2004, 353-362.

Michael W. Spicer. 2001. "Value Pluralism and Its Implications for American Public Administration." Administrative Theory and Praxis. Vol. 23, No. 4, 507-528.

Michael W. Spicer. 2000. "Herder on Cultural Pluralism and the State: An Examination of His Views and Their Implications for Public Administration." Administrative Theory and Praxis. Vol. 22, No. 2, 287-308.

Michael W. Spicer. 1998. "Frederick the Great on Government and Public Administration." American Review of Public Administration. Vol. 28, No. 3, 287-304.

Michael W. Spicer. 1997. "Public Administration, the State, and the Postmodern Condition." American Behavioral Scientist. Vol. 41, No. 1, 90-102.

Michael W. Spicer. 1994. "Public Administration and the Constitution: A Conflict in World-Views." American Review of Public Administration. Vol. 24, No. 1, 85-97.

Michael W. Spicer. 1993 "On Friedrich Hayek and Public Administration." Administration and Society. Vol. 25, No. 1, 41-59.

Hendrik Wagenaar. 1999. "Value Pluralism in Public Administration." *Administrative Theory and Praxis*, Vol. 21, 441-449.

Beth E. Warner. 2001. "John Stuart Mill's Theory of Bureaucracy within Representative Government: Balancing Competition and Participation," *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 61, 403-411.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Essays on philosophers (50% of your grade)

Students are to write two short essays (8 pages each). Each essay should summarize in your own words briefly and clearly the ideas of a particular political philosopher, discussed in the Strauss and Cropsey text, and suggest how these ideas may be relevant to American public administration. The philosopher selected should not be the same one for which you write a paper (See below). I encourage you to use the Strauss and Cropsey text as a source for discussing the ideas of each philosopher. The first essay is due on March 7, the second on May 9. Each essay will count for 25% of your grade. Students may submit a second draft of their first essay on or before April 25 (Please attach to this a copy of the first draft of this essay with my comments).

#### 2. Paper on a Philosopher (40%)

You are to write a paper explaining clearly an important idea or set of ideas advanced by a particular philosopher and the relevance of these to public administration. You should select a philosopher from among those discussed in the Strauss and Cropsey text. However, the paper should draw directly upon the original works of the philosopher, should provide relevant quotations from those works, and should use secondary sources, such as Strauss and Cropsey, only as an aid to interpretation (Of course, you may use secondary sources to help you understand the original works yourself and are encouraged to do so). This paper may be useful to you in helping develop a foundation for your dissertation prospectus.

The paper should establish the relevance of the philosopher's work to public administration by EITHER:

- a). Drawing clear parallels between the arguments of the public administration writers and the political philosopher, or
- b). Demonstrating direct or indirect influences by the philosopher on particular public administration writers, or
- c). Developing at least the outlines of a model of public administration from the philosopher's ideas and comparing it with models developed by public administration writers.

Shafritz, Hyde, and Parkes' *Classics of Public Administration* can be useful here in providing quick access to a broad range of public administration literature. You may look at a philosopher discussed in class, but your discussion of the relevance of the work must draw significantly upon more than just the class readings. If you use the web to search for and access articles on a philosopher, as I often do, you should limit yourself to articles that are in academic journals. These can be searched for using JSTOR, OhioLink, Infotrac, and other journal data bases available through the University library's web site. Your paper should run from fifteen to twenty double-spaced typewritten pages. You should let me know in writing whose ideas you intend to examine by February 7 and, in addition, you should be prepared on May 2 to make a 10-15 minute oral presentation of the key ideas in the paper and to distribute 10 copies of a one-page abstract of your paper. The paper is also due on May 2.

Masters students only may choose to write an additional 8- page essay on a philosopher in place of this paper. For students choosing this option, each essay then will count for 30% of your grade. The additional essay will also be due on May 2. No abstract or oral presentation is required for this paper.

### 3. Class Participation and Philosopher Quotations (10%)

This is a doctoral seminar and, as such, it provides you with a relatively rare opportunity to participate, in a small group setting, in a program of readings and conversation. Attendance is important and you should take this seminar only if you plan to attend all classes (In light of the uncertainties of life, up to two excused absences for unforeseen emergencies will be permitted). In order to encourage and also to help you to participate in a fruitful fashion, you are to select each week (except for Session 15) 3-6 quotations from each of the assigned extracts from each philosopher's works in the Skoble and Machan text or on reserve (In the case of Plato, notice that two extracts are provided so you should provide two sets of quotations for him). You should select those quotations that seem to best convey the most ideas presented in the extract. Each of these quotations may run from 1-4 consecutive sentences. You should come to class prepared to present your quotations and explain how each of them captures an important idea in the text. You will be also asked to explain and comment on your other readings. In the event that you plan to be absent, you may submit typed quotations (with page numbers listed) prior to the session when they are due. The quality of your responses here and also your general participation in class will count for 10% of your grade.

## V. PLAGIARISM

Papers that are plagiarized or include plagiarized text are unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the program. Please consult University policies and statements on this question on the University web site.

## IV. COURSE OUTLINE

Session I. Introduction. The Nature of Political Philosophy. Classifying political thought.

Assignments: L & C. Introduction. S & M (ix-x), S & C (1-6),

Michael W. Spicer. "Public Administration, the History of Ideas, and the Reinventing Government Movement."

Michael W. Spicer. "Public Administration and the Constitution: A Conflict in World-Views."

Session II. Plato

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 1; S & M (5-52); S & C (33-89)

Session III. Machiavelli and Hobbes

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 6; S & M (124-157); S & C (296-317, 396-420)

Session IV. Locke

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 9; S & M (181-209); S & C (476-512)

Michael W. Spicer. "The English Levellers and American Public Administration."

Session V. Hume

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 11; S & M (210-226); S & C (535-558)

Session VI. Rousseau and Kant

Assignments: S & M (241-253, 226-240); S & C (559-621)

Michael Diamond, "Hobbesian and Rousseauian Identities,"

Session VII. Frederick the Great and Herder

Assignments:

Frederick the Great. "Benevolent Despotism."

J.G. Herder. "Yet Another Philosophy of History."

Michael W. Spicer. "Frederick the Great on Government and Public Administration: An Examination of His Ideas and Their Significance for American Public Administration."

Michael W. Spicer. "Herder on Cultural Pluralism and the State: An Examination of His Views and Their Implications for Public Administration."

Session VIII. Publius and Burke

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 12, S & M (254-281), S & C (659-680, 687-709)

William Richardson. "The Constitution and Administrative Ethics in America."

Session IX. Hegel and Marx

Assignments: S & M (282-285, 322-327), S & C (732-760, 802-828)

Mark R. Rutgers. "Can the Study of Public Administration Do Without a Concept of the State; Reflections on the Work of Lorenz Von Stein."

Session X. Bentham and Mill

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 8; S & M (328-354); S & C (710-731, 784-801)

Jeremy Bentham. "The Principle of Utility."

Beth E. Warner. "John Stuart Mill's Theory of Bureaucracy within Representative Government: Balancing Competition and Participation."

Session XI. Dewey and Husserl

Assignments: L & C, Chapters 13, 22; S & M (390-397); S & C (851-869)

"Husserl" in Morton White (ed.). *The Age of Analysis*

Session XII. Some contemporary currents: Critical Theory and postmodernism (Habermas and Rorty).

Assignments: L & C, Chapters 25, 27; S & M (521-532, 543-553)

Michael W. Spicer. "Public Administration, the State, and the Postmodern Condition"

Session XIII. More contemporary currents: Liberalism revived? (Rawls and Hayek)

Assignments: L & C, Chapter 24; S & M (406-425, 446-465)

Michael W. Spicer. "On Friedrich Hayek and Public Administration."

Session XIV. Liberalism (Cont'd.): Pluralism. (Mendus, Dworkin and Berlin)

Assignments: S&M (500-520)

Isaiah Berlin. 1992. "The Pursuit of the Ideal."

Hendrik Wagenaar. "Value Pluralism in Public Administration."

Michael W. Spicer. "Value Pluralism and Its Implications for American Public Administration."

Session XV. Student Presentations