I. Course Description
The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the major writings and themes that have informed political theory in the West. Students will also be asked to analyze these writings and themes from a biblical perspective.

II. Grading
Your grade will be based on your performance on assignments totaling 750 points. Listed below are the different graded assignments that will be offered this semester. The total possible points for each is listed in parentheses.

Quizzes (100 points)
Every day that you have reading material assigned, I reserve the right to give you pop-quizzes that can cover material read for that day and any material discussed in class during the last day that the class met. These exercises and quizzes will usually be graded on a 10 point scale. If you wind up taking more quizzes than you need to (e.g. you have 800 points instead of 750) I will drop lowest quiz scores in order to balance things out.

Papers (300 points)
At various points throughout the semester, I will give you a thought topic upon which you can write 3-5 pages in response. Each of these papers will be worth 100 points, with 30 points assigned to spelling/grammar, and 70 points to content. Late papers will NOT be accepted, so turn them in on time or early (you will, in general, be given a week to complete each paper assignment.)

Tests (350 points)
We will be taking three tests this semester. Your first test will cover pre-Christian philosophers. The second test will cover the O’Donovan book. The final will cover the thinkers from Machiavelli to Marx. The tests will primarily be centered around short answer and essay questions that will assess your ability to work with the texts we have read for the course.

Participation (Fudge Factor)
Proverbs 27:17 says that as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. In the context of this class, I think that this verse is applicable in the sense that the material we cover will make more sense if we can discuss it, debate it, and generally interact with each other. We will all leave this class better off if we each of us contributes to the conversation in a substantive manner.
To that end, I expect each of you to participate in class discussions, offering your insights, thoughts, and especially questions. Some of the primary texts will be difficult to read, and I fully expect you to have questions about the readings. In the absence of your questions, I have plenty of my own questions, and I will feel free to call on anyone in class to at least make a serious attempt at answering my questions. So, do your reading and speak up!

III. Miscellaneous Policies

A. Attendance

Since this class is largely discussion oriented, attendance is critical. Coming to class solely for the purpose of taking a quiz, and then leaving at the conclusion of the quiz is not acceptable and will result in a zero for the quiz. As per university policy, since we meet two times a week, you are basically allowed two unexcused absences. For the definition of what counts as an unexcused/excused absence, refer to the University Catalog. In any event, if you are going to miss class, you must notify me in advance if at all practicable. My voicemail in my office is on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so if you need to, call my office number and leave a message telling me that you will not be in class.

Note: even if the absence would otherwise be excused, failure to notify me in advance will result in the absence being listed as unexcused. If you have an excused absence, any quiz or in class assignment you miss will be entered as an “E” meaning that the assignment was excused and you will receive your average grade for that assignment. The same will occur for your first two unexcused absences (except that a “U” will be entered into the book.) In no event will there be an opportunity to make up work, whether the absence was excused or not. The only difference will be the entry of an “E”/”U” versus a zero for the assignment. If a homework assignment is due on the day you are to miss class, you should turn in the assignment early or arrange to have a fellow student turn it in. Should you go beyond the two unexcused absences, you will receive a zero for that quiz grade.

B. Statement on Academic Integrity

As a Christian institution of higher education, John Brown University seeks to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Violations of these standards will result in substantial penalties. At a minimum, any instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and a report submitted to the academic dean. Further infractions will result in failure of the course and possible suspension. For additional information and examples, see the Academic Integrity section on pages 4-5 of your Student Handbook.

C. Civility

I hope and expect that we will treat each other with civility and respect in our discussions. There will no doubt be instances this semester where you think that something I have said or a classmate has said is totally off the wall and ridiculous. No matter how tempted you are to say something disparaging, please remember that we are here to have a discussion, and that that can only take place where everyone feels they are welcome to participate. Thus, do not abuse your freedom to comment by ridiculing the comments of others.
D. Grade Scale

The grade scale I will use to calculate your final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>697-750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>675-696</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>660-674</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>615-659</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>540-584</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>585-599</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>510-524</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>450-509</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Policy on Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who need academic accommodations should make
an appointment with the Director of Student Support Services (238-8770) to begin the
accommodation process. They also are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor as
soon as possible. Students without documented disabilities who feel they may have difficulty
with this course are also encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss what
steps need to be taken to be successful.

F. Breaks & Holidays

Friday, March 19, and Thursday, April 1, are regular class days. Students should not
make travel plans for these dates until after their regularly-scheduled classes have ended. In
addition, I am going to be gone for a further week in April. I will let you know more about what
we will do during that week as the time approaches. Thus, it is especially important that you
attend class on the other days that we are meeting.

G. Final Exam Policy

Students must sit for the final exam at the specified time. The only exceptions are death
or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, or illness of the student as
documented by a medical professional. Any exception to the final exam policy must be
approved by Becky Lambert, Associate Dean of Academic Services.

H. Time Commitment

The general rule of thumb for a college course is that you should be spending around 2 to
3 hours working for every hour spent in class. We spend a total of 36 hours in class, so this
means the homework could amount to somewhere around 70 hours of work over the term. For
some of you, this material will come easier than for others, and thus require less time. For others,
this class will be unusually difficult, and it will absorb more of your time than you think it
should. But in all cases, if you will stick with the readings, and participate in class, I hope that by
the end of the semester we will all have found this course to have been a rewarding experience!