

**Political Science 454**  
**Political Utopian Political Thought**  
**Andrews University**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:30 to 12:20  
Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Gary V. Wood  
Office: Buller 128  
Hours: M/W 12:30-2:30; T/R 11:30-1:30 or by appointment  
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines the relationship between the power of modern science and utopian political theory. To this end, we will explore the project to conquer nature and perfect man and consider the likelihood (and consequences) of a more perfect marriage of technology and ideology in the future.

Course Requirements:

Midterm Examination I:	20%	Monday, February 6
Midterm Examination II:	20%	Wednesday, March 15
Final Examination:	30%	Tuesday, May 2
Term Paper:	20%	Wednesday, April 26
Attendance & Participation:	10%	

All exams will be essay. There will be a handout on the 10-12 page paper the second week of the term. In addition, you are expected to attend class on a regular basis, to be current on the readings, and contribute to classroom discussion. More than three (3) absences will result in the forfeiture of the 10% attendance and participation component.

Required Texts:

Rene Descartes, *A Discourse on Method*, trans. Ian Maclean (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground*, trans. Constance Garnett (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2009).

C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, (New York: HarperCollins, 1974).

Francis Fukuyama, *Our Posthuman Future*, (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002).

## **Course Outline:**

The following is a tentative schedule. Reading assignments and dates may be adjusted but assigned material should be read prior to class.

### **Week One:**

Genesis 1-4, 11; Descartes, 5-20

### **Week Two:**

Descartes, 21-63

### **Week Three:**

Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground*

### **Week Four:**

C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*

### **Week Five:**

**Midterm Exam: Monday, February 6**

Martin Heidegger, "Science and Reflection" (handout)

### **Week Six:**

Heidegger, "The Origin of the Work of Art" (handout)

### **Week Seven:**

Heidegger, "The Thing" (handout), Fukuyama, 1-40

### **Week Eight:**

Fukuyama, 41-147

### **Week Nine:**

Fukuyama, 105-218

### **Week Ten:**

**Midterm Exam II: Wednesday, March 15**

### **Week Eleven:**

**Spring Semester Break**

### **Week Twelve:**

Tom Darby, "On Spiritual Crisis, Globalization, and Planetary Rule" (handout)

Week Thirteen:

Leon Kass “Defending Human Dignity” (handout)

Week Fourteen:

Leo Strauss. “An Epilogue”

Week Fifteen:

John Marini, “Theology, Metaphysics, and Positivism” & “Bureaucracy and America” (handouts)

Week Sixteen:

**Term Paper Due: Wednesday, April 26**

Review for Final Exam.

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 2, 10:30-12:30**