

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **PSCI 610**

#### **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PROCESS AND TRENDS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the current challenges and opportunities facing those who would lead as statesmen and women in the political context. Contemporary philosophical influences, electoral and demographic changes, and geopolitical realignments and forces will all be considered in light of a Biblical perspective. Students will be challenged to apply key concepts of political science to these discussions.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course examines the historical origins of the political, economic, and cultural institutions that shape the modern state, in order to promote the formation of an interpretive explanation for those origins.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the relationship between worldview and the contemporary political process.
- B. Explain the relationship between one's philosophical presumptions regarding human nature and the development and/or choice of political systems.
- C. Identify significant trends in the development of institutions in the modern state.
- D. Explain the effects of modern presuppositions on several facets of modern society: political, economic, religious, cultural, etc.

- E. Read and compare sources in political, economic, religious, and cultural studies.
- F. Analyze contemporary policies and/or governmental actions in light of their philosophical roots.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and include at least 3 references from the course readings and at least 1 Scripture reference. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words and include at least 1 reference from the course readings and at least 1 Scripture reference. Each reply post must be unique; merely posting the same reply in 2 places is not sufficient and may be treated as a form of academic misconduct.

- D. Book Reviews (3)

The student will be required to submit 3 Book Reviews. The papers must be at least 3 pages written in current Turabian format, utilize and cite at least 5 appropriate sources to justify the student's position and/or conclusions, and must be in accord with the standards of academic writing.

- E. Constitutional Design Proposal

The student will be required to submit a Constitutional Design Proposal. In this project, the student will specify the purpose of civil society and propose a set of ideal political, economic, and cultural institutions. This proposal must be 5–6 pages and cite at least 5 scholarly sources.

- F. Research Paper

The student will be required to submit a Research Paper. The paper must be 7–10 pages written in current Turabian format, utilize and cite 7–10 appropriate sources. The number of sources must be sufficient to justify the student's position and/or conclusions, and must be in accord with the standards of academic writing. The topic for this paper is an assessment of modern political, economic, and cultural institutions and their prospects for perseverance.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Book Reviews (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Constitutional Design Proposal	200
Research Paper	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**B. Scale**

A = 940–1010   A- = 920–939   B+ = 900–919   B = 860–899   B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839   C = 780–819   C- = 760–779   D+ = 740–759   D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699   F = 0–679

**C. Disability Assistance**

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PSCI 610**

Textbooks: Budziszewski, *Written on the Heart: The Case for Natural Law* (1997).

MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory* (2007).

Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Budziszewski: 1st half 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Budziszewski: 2nd half 1 presentation	Book Review 1	100
<b>3</b>	Putnam: 1st half 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
<b>4</b>	Putnam: 2nd half 1 presentation	Book Review 2	100
<b>5</b>	MacIntyre: 1st half 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	100
<b>6</b>	MacIntyre: 2nd half 1 presentation	Book Review 3	100
<b>7</b>	1 presentation 1 website	Constitutional Design Proposal	200
<b>8</b>	1 presentation 1 website	Research Paper	200
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.