

Mt. San Jacinto College Honors Course Outline Addendum

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Course Discipline:	Political Science
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Course Number:	PS 105H
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Honors Courses End in "H"

Title:	Honors Introduction to Political Theory
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Must begin with "Honors"

Honors Course Objectives:

1. Honors students will meet all learning objectives of the regular section, however in more depth.
2. Acquire advanced research, writing, and presentation skills.
3. Develop critical thinking and analysis skills
4. Synthesize textbook and course materials and outside research and draw conclusions

Honors Course Content:

The topics covered in PS 105H are the same as those in PS 105, though with greater depth, breadth, and rigor. Those topics may include, but are not limited to:

1. Classical and Medieval Political Thought: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas.
2. The Reformation: Martin Luther and John Calvin,
3. Modern Political Thought: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Hume, Bentham, James Mill, Adam Smith
4. Modern Liberalism: De Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill.
5. Socialism and Communism: More, Hegel, Marx, Lenin, Mao, Bernstein
6. Current Trends: Feminism, Green Political Thought, Neo-Conservatism, Neo-Liberalism, Neo-Marxism, Liberation Ideologies, Identity Politics

Honors Course Assignments:

Honors students must complete all assignments of the regular section, and in addition complete an honors enrichment assignment.

Honors assignments should be one of the following options (to be determined in collaboration between the student and instructor):

1. Write a comparative analysis paper comparing and contrasting at least two major schools of political thought. The number of thinkers discussed to be determined by instructor (minimum of 2). An example of an honors research topic includes, but is not limited to: • Compare and contrast the political philosophies of John Locke and Karl Marx. Which philosopher is more relevant today? Why? Papers should be 10-15 pages, with a minimum of 10 legitimate sources.
2. An oral presentation and annotated bibliography. Presentations may be individual, group, or debate format (to be determined by instructor). An example topic may include, but is not limited to: • Which political thinker, John Locke or Karl Marx, provides the best framework for dealing with inequality and why? Presentations should be 15-30 minutes in length and incorporate visual media. Students must use a minimum of 10 scholarly, news, and legitimate news sources when

completing their research.

3. A service-learning project in which the student volunteers for an organization, keeps an hours log and journal, then writes and or presents a summary of how the experience relates to class. Students must complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time. Write ups must be a minimum of 10 pages and use a minimum of 5 legitimate sources relating the purpose f their chosen organization to class.

Evaluation of Honors Course Assignments:

Honors students will be evaluated first according to the requirements of the course. The honors assignment must be completed to receive honors credit for the course. To receive honors credit, the student must complete one of the above enrichment assignments at a level and quality considered by the instructor to be passing. The grading of the written component should be based on the following:

- 1. Coverage of aspects of the topic agreed to by the student and instructor.
- 2. Critical thinking and analytical skills demonstrated by the student.
- 3. Demonstrated ability to synthesize textbook, course materials, and outside research and draw conclusions.
- 4. Demonstrated ability to use accepted college-level grammar and spelling.

The oral presentation must meet the following criteria: 1. Minimum of 15 minutes in length 2. Minimum of 10 reference sources in the annotated bibliography.

The grading of the oral component will be based on the following: 1. Coverage of aspects of the topic agreed to by the student and instructor. 2. Critical thinking and analytical skills demonstrated by the student. 3. Clarity of speech. 4. Use of source materials to support argument.

Additional Methods of Instruction:

Honors students must meet outside of class with the instructor on a regular basis to discuss progress on their Honors projects, additional readings, or work on developing research skills. Meetings can be individual or group. Students must complete a minimum of 3 meetings with the instructor for the semester.