

Political Science 291: History of Political Thought II Political Theory from Hobbes to Freud

This course introduces students to many of the most important political thinkers in the West from the seventeenth through the twentieth century, including: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Burke, Hegel, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche and Freud. The focus throughout will be on the assumptions that each thinker makes about human nature and the vision of a good society that flows from those assumptions. More specifically, we shall see that different accounts of the function and structure of the State, or of government more broadly, are rooted in different assumptions about the nature of, and relationship between, human reason and human passion. Since virtually all contemporary political discourse -- including contemporary Political Science -- is either explicitly or (more often) implicitly based on one or more of those assumptions, a critical analysis of these assumptions is indispensable to a comprehension of contemporary political discourse.

The following required readings are available for purchase at the University Bookstore in Circle Center:

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*
Iain Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought*
David Wooten, ed., *Modern Political Thought*

A mid-term take-home essay exam and a final take-home essay exam are required. Students will also be obliged to hand in five memos in which they a) identify a central claim made by the theorist; b) summarize the main arguments the theorist makes to support that claim; and c) evaluate the arguments that support that claim, i.e., indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with those arguments (and thus that claim), and explain why. Memos of from *two to three (double-spaced typed) pages* will be due on Thursday of weeks three, six, nine, twelve, and fifteen (January 27, February 17, March 10, April 7, and April 28).

It should go without saying that students are expected to come to class having *done the required reading* and therefore being prepared to ask questions and make comments during lectures and discussions.

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Office Hours
Tuesday 2-5 and
by appointment

Week 1

Introduction: Why Study Political Theory?

- Weeks
2-3
- Thomas Hobbes
- Leviathan*, in Wooten, ed., *Modern Political Thought*, pp. 122-36; 140-45; 153-63; 169-84; 187-209; 249-263 and chapter XLVI, “Of Darkness from Vain Philosophy and Fabulous Traditions” (xerox handout, read *first*)
Hampshire-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought*, ch.1 (pp.1-67)
- Weeks
4-5
- John Locke
- Second Treatise of Government*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 310-386 (skip pp. 382-385)
Hampshire-Monk, ch. 2 (pp. 69-115)
- Weeks
6-7
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 404-464
On the Social Contract, in Wooten, ed., pp. 464-484; 488- 493; 505-517; 528-534.
Hampshire-Monk, ch. 4 (pp.152-195)
- Week 8
- Immanuel Kant
- pp. 573-577
- “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?”, in Wooten, ed.,
Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, pp.55-73 only. (xerox handout)
Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch (xerox handout)
- Week 9
- Edmund Burke
- Reflections on the Revolution in France*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 551-572
Hampshire-Monk, ch.6 (pp. 261-303)
- Week
10
- Georg Hegel
- Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 742-763
Hegel’s Philosophy of Right (xerox handout). Read all paragraphs other than 260-261 *before* the material in Wooten.
Hampshire-Monk, ch.9 (pp. 409-482)
- Week
11
- John Stuart Mill
- On Liberty*, in Wooten, pp. 605-672

Hampshire-Monk, ch.8 (pp. 339-408)

Weeks
12-13

Karl Marx

On The Jewish Question, in Wooten, ed., pp. 764-778; *Alienated Labor*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 790-797; *The Communist Manifesto* (with Friedrich Engels), Parts I-II, and IV, in Wooten, ed., pp. 826-839; 845-846; *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 847-861; *The Civil War in France*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 874-883; *Critique of the Gotha Program*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 884-894
Hampshire-Monk, ch.10 (pp. 483-511; 515-516; 528-540; 559-561)

Week
14

Friedrich Nietzsche

On The Genealogy of Morals, in Wooten, ed., pp. 895-946

Week
15

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, pp.10-112.