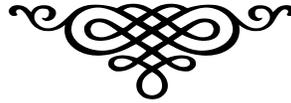


POL320Y. Modern Political Thought

2017-2018



Professor: Rebecca Kingston

Lectures: Wednesdays 12-2, AH 100.

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Description:

This course offers an introduction to key political thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe. In the fall semester we will read thinkers who provide insight into the themes of liberty, equality and the specific nature of public life. In the second semester we examine a number of thinkers writing in the aftermath of the French Revolution often providing, or leading to, more radical challenges of Enlightenment articulations of those ideas. Throughout the course we also will be paying attention to how various thinkers see their own historical circumstances in relation to both the ancient past of Greece and Rome, as well as in relation to the events of 1789-93. Conceptually we will be focusing on competing understandings of equality and liberty (and to some extent community).

Required Texts:

There are a number of the course readings that are available as e-books or e-readings through links on the course site on Blackboard (see the Course Materials tab where the readings are arranged on a weekly basis).

The texts listed below are in two categories. The first list is of texts that are required and that you must purchase or access at the reserve desk of the E.J. Pratt library as they are not available in e-format. The second list is of texts that are required but for which an e-version exists with a link available on the Blackboard site. They are listed here because some of you will want to continue taking courses in political theory and it will be helpful for you to keep a physical copy of the book and for some of you it will be easier to read the book than to read the material online. The bookstore will be ordering a number of copies of these texts for your convenience (though better to phone ahead to ensure that they still have copies available- they can order them for you if their stock is depleted). The Bob Miller Bookroom is located at 180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse (near the Bloor/Avenue Road intersection and just across from the Royal Ontario Museum entrance), 416-922-3557, <http://www.bobmillerbookroom.com>.

- I. Texts that are now available for purchase and that are NOT available in e-format (1 or 2 copies are available for consultation on course reserves). These are available currently at the Bob Miller Bookroom. (please stick to these editions as other editions may cause certain confusion given differences in pagination as well as translation).

Montesquieu. Selected Political Writings. Ed. Melvin Richter. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1990.

Rousseau. The Basic Political Writings, 2nd ed. Eds. Donald Cress and David Wootton. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2011.

John Stuart Mill, On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Hegel. Elements of the Philosophy of Right. Cambridge: CUP, 1991.

- II. Texts that are available in e-format through links provided by the library but which you may wish to order if you prefer reading printed sources rather than online ones (you might also want to think about ordering these editions second-hand through abebooks.com)

Mary Wollstonecraft. Vindication of the Rights of Woman. New York: Penguin, 1975. (Please note that the edition noted here is different from that available through the link on the syllabus, but this edition is very inexpensive and easy to consult, and the work was written in English so issues of translation are not a factor in this case.)

Edmund Burke. Reflections on the Revolution in France. Ed. Iain Hampshire-Monk. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Alexis de Tocqueville. The Old Regime and the Revolution. Ed. F. Furet and F. Melonio. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998. (This is different from the online version which is linked to the reading in the syllabus, but this is a much better edition and should be purchased if you intend to do further work on de Tocqueville.)

Marx. The Marx-Engels Reader, ed Robert C. Tucker. New York: WW Norton, 1978.

Course Requirements (further discussion of each of these components of the final grade are listed below):

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| Mid-term Test (Wednesday, December 6 th) | 30% |
| Essay due March 28 th (12-15 pp.) | 30% |
| Final Exam during the final examination period in April | 30% |
| Tutorial (attendance and quality of participation) | 10% |

Mid-term Test: The mid-term test on Wednesday, December 6th from 12 to 2 in EX100 (the Exam Centre) will cover the material from the first term (Montesquieu, Rousseau, Godwin, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, Wollstonecraft and Burke). The first section of the test will provide a passage from one of the works studied and will ask you to provide an analysis of the passage. Passage analysis involves discussing the meaning of the passage by situating it within the broader argument of the thinker as well as exploring the meaning of the various terms

invoked in the passage. Any tensions or unresolved issues of the passage's meaning should be raised in your analysis, as well as some account of the significance of the passage. There will be some time in tutorials during the first term devoted to passage analysis so as to help prepare you for this first part of the term test. The second section of the test will be an essay question on at least two of the thinkers and works studied throughout the first term.

Essay: A list of questions will be provided to students near the start of the second term. The essay due March 28th should seek to answer one of those questions. The essay must be structured as an *argument* to support a particular interpretation of the chosen author and text, and to support this argument direct reference to the relevant text through direct quotes or chapter and page number are necessary.

Although this essay is not considered an extensive research essay, students are required to include discussion of at least two competing interpretations from secondary literature of aspects of a given author's work (reference to these interpretations should be cited fully and appropriately). All references used must be cited fully and appropriately (any standard citation style used in the humanities and social sciences- MLA, Chicago Style, etc.- is acceptable as long as it is used consistently throughout the essay).

Although the assigned readings for this course draw from only selected parts of a particular work, in choosing an essay topic you should not limit your reading or study to only that part of the work assigned in this syllabus, but plan to look over the entire work focusing on whatever sections are most relevant to the topic chosen. (There should be a good deal of overlap in this, but the point is that you should begin to think about these texts in holistic terms, texts that not only offer statements and a series of arguments, but written reflections that work through themes in various ways and thus may require deeper interpretive work to find their meanings.)

The paper should be 12-15pp., double-spaced.

Normally students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com to ensure a practice of good academic integrity. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website. If, as a student, you object to using turnitin.com, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments.

Students are also required to keep their rough and draft work and copies of their assignments until the end of the course when grades are posted on ROSI. University policy regarding plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism on the Blackboard site or at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Tutorials: Students should attend tutorials starting at the beginning of October. You will be asked to sign up for your tutorial on the Blackboard site for the class. Details about this will be announced in class before the end of September. Work in tutorials will be focused on the themes raised in the lectures.

Writing Resources on Campus: Students can find information about college writing centers at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. The home page for the website "Writing at the University of Toronto" is www.writing.utoronto.ca.

- More than 60 Advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice. A complete list of printable PDF versions are listed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links-for-students>.
- You may in particular want to consult the file "How Not to Plagiarize" and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources; these are listed in the section at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.
- The Writing Centers also hold regular workshops which may be of interest to you. More information on these workshops is available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>.
- Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. I particularly recommend the Communication Cafe meeting weekly at four different times and locations for the first five weeks of each term for practice with oral skills like class discussion and presentations. In addition, you may wish to take advantage of an online program called Reading eWriting that helps students engage course readings more effectively.

Reminders and regulations: Please consult with your T.A. if you require extensions on your assignments. Without prior permission from your T.A., assignments handed in late will be deducted 2% of the assignment grade per day (including weekends).

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/> .

Course Schedule and Weekly Readings:

Term I

Week 1, September 13: Introduction

I. Three Enlightenment reflections on Liberty

Week 2, September 20: The Cave: Montesquieu's Troglodytes

Read: Selections from the *Persian Letters* and the *Considerations in Montesquieu*, Selected Political Writings, pp. 55-105. Purchase book at the Bob Miller Bookroom (details above).

- Week 3, September 27:** **Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws**
Read: Selections from the *Spirit of the Laws* in Montesquieu, Selected Political Writings, pp. 106-134, 140-151, 179-193, and 206-228.
- Week 4, October 4:** **Born Free?**
Read: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men* in Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Basic Political Writings, pp. 27-91. Purchase text at the Bob Miller Bookroom (details above).
- Week 5, October 11:** **Rousseau's Social Contract: self-determining freedom?**
Read: Rousseau, *Social Contract* in The Basic Political Writings, pp. 153-200, 218-222, 224-228, 241-252.
- Week 6, October 18:** **Rousseau con't**
- Week 7, October 25:** **Freedom from Subjection: William Godwin**
Read: Godwin, Enquiry Concerning Political Justice, Book III, chaps. 1 to 7 (link on the Blackboard site).

II. Modes of Equality

- Week 8, November 1:** **Equal rights in the French Revolution**
Read: Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789 (link on the Blackboard site to the following url address:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp)
- Week 9, November 8:** **READING WEEK. NO CLASS.**
- Week 10, November 15:** **Citoyennes?**
Read: Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman, chaps. 1-4 (link on the Blackboard site)
- Week 11, November 22:** **Citoyennes, con't**
Read: Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman, chaps. 6, 8-9 (link on the Blackboard site).
- Week 12, November 29:** **Utilitarianism and equality**
Read: Jeremy Bentham, An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, chaps. 1-5 (link on the Blackboard site)

Week 13, December 6: Mid-term test to be held during class time (Wed. 12-2) at the Exam Centre, 255 McCaul Street, Room 100 (for map of location see http://www.osm.utoronto.ca/exam_map.html)

WINTER BREAK!

Term 2:

III. Adjudicating the French Revolution

Week 1, January 10: **Burke: opposing *liberté* (in the name of liberty?)**

Read: Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France, pp. 3-43. Link through UTOR catalogue and on the Blackboard site at the following link:

http://ebooks.cambridge.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/pdf_viewer.jsf?cid=CBO9781139046268A014&ref=true&pubCode=CUP&urlPrefix=cambridge&productCode=cbo

Week 2, January 17: **Burke con't**

Read: Reflections pp. 55-65, 72-86 and 247-250.

Week 3, January 24: **Tocqueville: the long march of equality**

Read: Tocqueville. The Old Regime and the Revolution , Preface, Book I, chaps. 1-3 and 5, Part II, chaps. 8, 9 and 11 and 13 (in some editions chap. 13 of Part II is renumbered Part III, chap. 1). Link through UTOR catalogue and on the Blackboard site to the following link:

<http://solomon.soth.alexanderstreet.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/cgi-bin/asp/philo/soth/documentidx.pl?sourceid=S10019251>

IV. Competing visions of modernity and historical development

Week 4, January 31: **John Stuart Mill**

Read: John Stuart Mill. "Utilitarianism," In On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays, pp. 129-158. This text is available for purchase at the Bob Miller Bookroom (see details above).

Week 5, February 7: **Mill, con't**

Read: "On Liberty," In On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays. pp. 5-43, 62-78 and 83-91.

Week 6, February 14: **Hegel 1. Thinking through History**

Read: Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right, Introduction, I ss. 41-50, 57-66 and III, 341-380. This text is available for purchase at the Bob Miller Bookroom (see details above).

Week 7, February 21: **READING WEEK, NO CLASS**

Week 8, February 28: **Hegel 2. Property, the Family and Civil Society**

Read: Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right, I, ss. 72-75; II, 142-169; III, 181-188, 209-218, 239-249.

Week 9, March 7: **Hegel 3. The State.**

Read: Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right, III, ss. 255, 257-270, 273-286.

Week 10, March 14: **Marx 1**

Read: Marx, “Introduction to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy”, “Introduction to the Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right” and “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” In The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. R. Tucker (link on Blackboard site)

Week 11, March 21: **Marx 2**

Read: Marx and Engels, “The Communist Manifesto” and Marx, “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte” (link on Blackboard site)

Week 12, March 28: **TERM PAPER DUE** (see above for further instructions)

Marx 3

Week 13, April 4: **Nietzsche**

Read: Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, First essay (link on the Blackboard site.)

Final Exam in the April examination period.