

**POL320Y: MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT  
2010-2011**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course looks at some of the most influential political theory texts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. We focus on tensions, disputes, and contradictions contained within "modern" political thought. During the first term we concentrate on the issues raised by the clash between Enlightenment and Romantic thought. Here we read "pairs" of thinkers, e.g. Kant versus Herder, in order to draw out contrasts. During the second term, authors and texts will be divided into those that can be described as "modern" and those that reject the main defining features of modernity.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

\* All required texts are available at Toronto Women's Bookstore, 73 Harbord Street or will be posted on Blackboard.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*, Hackett.

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Oxford.

Immanuel Kant, *Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Cambridge.

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, Penguin Classics.

Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, Cambridge

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Vintage Books.

Each text will be accompanied by a Reading Guide. The reading guides are posted on Blackboard. These guides are designed to help students identify the central themes to be discussed in class and tutorials as well as prepare for tests and exams

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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|--|------------|
| <b>Tutorial participation</b>  | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>1,500 word paper on Rousseau<br/>Due: Oct 27</b>  | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>Mid-term in-class test<br/>Questions handed out: Nov 24<br/>Test written in class: Dec. 1</b> | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>2,000 word comparative paper<br/>Due: March 6</b>   | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>Cumulative final exam<br/>Exam period</b>   | <b>35%</b> |

## **GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS**

1. Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day of lateness.
2. No extensions, etc. without a certificate from your physician.
3. You should familiarize yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>. You must write your papers specifically for this class; you should not borrow material from another class; and you should not use another person's words or ideas without attribution, whether those words or ideas come from conversations, the internet, or printed materials. If you are in doubt about whether you are committing plagiarism, feel free to ask me or a discussion leader; but a good rule of thumb is that if you are wondering about this, you should cite a source.
4. Students are required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com. They will be also required to submit a hard copy to their TA including the Turnitin.com receipt.

## **BLACKBOARD**

This course will use a Blackboard website on which you can find the syllabus, reading guides, additional handouts, assignments and other information relevant to the course. Power Point presentations will not be posted.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. The Age of Reason

- Sept. 15:** “The Enlightenment”- handout posted on Blackboard.  
“What is Enlightenment” Kant – posted on Blackboard

### II. Rousseau versus Rousseau: authenticity and legitimacy

- Sept. 22:** Rousseau: “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality”.
- Sept. 29:** Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book I, II, III: cc. 15, Book IV: cc. 1,2,7.
- Oct. 6:** Rousseau continued.

### III. Kant versus Herder: head and heart

- Oct. 13:** Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 7-46 (4:393 – 4:440).
- Oct. 20:** Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, continued.
- Oct. 27** **FIRST PAPER DUE**  
Herder – readings posted on Blackboard
- Nov 3:** Herder continued

### IV. Burke and Wollstonecraft: tradition and emancipation

- Nov: 10:** Edmund Burke: *Reflection of the Revolution if France*, pp. 3-53, 75-82, 95 97.
- Nov. 17:** Mary Wollstonecraft, excerpt from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, posted on Blackboard
- Nov 24:** Burke and Wollstonecraft continued
- Dec 1:** Mid term in class test

### WINTER BREAK

## V. Realizing Modernity: Mill, Hegel and Marx

- Jan. 12:** John Stuart Mill, excerpt from *Utilitarianism*, posted on Blackboard.  
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, c. 1
- Jan. 19:** John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, cc. 2 and 3.
- Jan. 26:** Hegel, “Master Slave Dialectic.” Reading posted on Blackboard.
- Feb. 2:** Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*.  
Table of Contents: pp. 3-8; Preface: pp. 19-23; Part Three, Ethical Life: paragraphs 142-274
- Feb. 9:** Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, continued
- Feb. 16:** Marx, “Estranged Labor,” posted on Blackboard  
Marx, excerpt from “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*, posted on Blackboard
- Feb. 21-25** **READING WEEK**
- March 2:** Marx, “The German Ideology,” posted on Blackboard.  
Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” posted on Blackboard.
- Mar. 9:** **SECOND PAPER DUE**
- Mar. 16:** Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*. Numbers refer to aphorisms and not pages: Nietzsche’s Preface, 1-16, 25-37, 43-44, 46, 49, 55-56, 61-62, 198-199, 201-203, 211-212, 257-260, 264-264, 268, 272.
- Mar. 30:** Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, continued.
- April 6:** **Review**