

**POL320 Y1Y/L0101:
MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
2012-13
Thursday 10-12 AH 100**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course looks at some of the most influential political theory texts of the 18th and 19th centuries. 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

The following required texts are available at the University of Toronto Bookstore (214 College Street). All other reading will be posted on Blackboard.

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

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

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork 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

Tutorial participation	10%
Mid-term test December exam period	25%
2,500 word comparative paper Due: February 28	25%
Cumulative final exam Exam period	40 %

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 your TA; but a good rule of thumb is that if you are wondering about this, you should cite a source.
4. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference 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 web site.
5. Students will be also required to submit a hard copy to their TA including the Turnitin.com

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. 12: Introduction

Sept. 19: “The Enlightenment”- handout posted on Blackboard.
“What is Enlightenment” Kant – posted on Blackboard

II. Rousseau versus Rousseau: authenticity and legitimacy

Monday September 24: Tutorials begin

Sept. 26: Rousseau: “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality”.

Oct. 3: Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book I, II, III: cc. 15, Book IV: cc. 1,2,7.

Oct. 10: Rousseau continued.

III. Kant and Herder: head and heart

Oct. 17: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 7-46 (4:393 – 4:440).

Oct. 24: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, continued.

Oct. 31: Herder – readings posted on Blackboard

Nov. 7: Herder continued

IV. Burke and Wollstonecraft: tradition and emancipation

Nov. 14: Edmund Burke: *Reflection of the Revolution if France*, pp. 3-53, 75-82, 95-97.

Nov. 21: Mary Wollstonecraft, excerpt from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, posted on Blackboard

Nov 28: Burke and Wollstonecraft continued

MID-TERM in December exam period

WINTER BREAK

V. Realizing Modernity: Mill, Hegel and Marx

- Jan. 9:** John Stuart Mill, excerpt from *Utilitarianism*, posted on Blackboard.
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, c. 1
- Jan. 16:** John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, cc. 2 and 3.
- Jan. 23:** Hegel, “Master Slave Dialectic.” Reading posted on Blackboard.
- Jan. 30:** 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. 6:** Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, continued
- Feb. 13:** Marx, “Estranged Labor,” posted on Blackboard
Marx, excerpt from “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*, posted on Blackboard
- Feb. 17-21** **READING WEEK**
- Feb. 27:** **PAPER DUE!**

Marx “Theses on Feuerbach” Marx, “The German Ideology,” posted on Blackboard.
Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” posted on Blackboard.
- Mar. 6:** Marx continued. Introduction to Nietzsche
- Mar. 13:** 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. 20:** Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, continued.
- Mar. 27:** Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, continued
- April 3:** **Review**

