

University of Toronto  
**POL 320Y Modern Political Thought**  
Winter 2015–2016

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**Teaching Assistants**

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This course surveys eighteenth and nineteenth century developments in the history of political thought through a close reading of its most representative texts. We will address the following concepts, among others: human nature, progress, liberty, equality, justice, domination, power, revolution, and temporality. While lectures will offer analysis and interpretation, both a conscientious reading of the assigned texts and a readiness to discuss them in class are essential elements of this course. Moreover, students are responsible for all of the materials in the assigned readings whether discussed in class or not.

**Required Texts**

Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*, Hackett  
Kant, *Idea for a Universal History; What is Enlightenment?; Contest of Faculties* (Packet)  
Condorcet, *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* (Packet)  
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Oxford University Press  
Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Knox (trans.) Oxford University Press  
Marx, *Karl Marx Selected Writings* (Packet)  
Mill, *On Liberty*, Penguin Books  
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Kaufmann (trans.) Vintage Books  
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Kaufmann (trans.) Vintage Books

**Evaluation**

Tutorial Participation	10%
First Term Test (November 11)	20%
Second Term Test (December 2)	10%
Term Paper - 10 pages (April 6)	30%
Cumulative Final Examination (TBA)	30%

### *Regarding Missed Term Tests*

Make-up tests will be offered only for those students who provide an extraordinary reason for missing the test. Students who miss a test for extraordinary reasons must submit a **written request (no emails!)** for special consideration within **one week** of the missed test explaining the reason for missing the test and providing appropriate documentation, e.g. a medical certificate. When making the request students must include their email address.

**IMPORTANT:** Makeup tests will be held on **April 6, 2016** from 6:10–8:00. Students who miss the makeup test (regardless of the reason) will receive a zero for the missed test.

### *Regarding Term Paper*

Term paper topics will be distributed in advance and the paper is due **at the beginning of class** (6:10) on April 6, 2016.

Students should keep hard copies of their term paper; the instructor and TA assume no responsibility in the event of loss or misplacement of submitted work.

The instructor and TA reserve the right to question students on the content of their written assignments. "Plagiarism is a serious academic offence 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>."

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.

Students will be also required to submit a hard copy of their paper to their TA.

**IMPORTANT:** Late papers will be penalized 5% per day, **no exceptions**.

### *Regarding Appeals*

Appeals must be accompanied by a half-page explanation of the merit for appeal (that you thought the assignment would get a better grade is not a sufficient reason for appeal). Appeals are to be submitted to your teaching assistant for consideration **within 10 days after the tests/papers are returned**. I will consider the appeal only if a resolution cannot be found; however, I will adjust the grade only for egregious errors (5% or more).

## Blackboard

Important course related announcements, reading guides for the theorists and specific reading schedules will be posted on Blackboard. Please consult weekly.

## Email

Substantive questions on course subject matter will not be addressed via email as all such questions are best considered during my office hours. Email correspondence should only be used for bureaucratic or course related problems.

**IMPORTANT:** The syllabus answers most questions so please read the syllabus **BEFORE** emailing.

\*\*\*\*\*The use of digital recorders during lecture sessions **is not allowed**\*\*\*\*\*

## Reading and Lecture Schedule

September 16

### Organizational Meeting and Introduction

### Inequality, Alienation, New Beginnings

September 23, 30, October 7, 14

**Reading:** Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality* and *Social Contract*

### History as Progress

October 21, 28, November 04

**Reading:** Kant's *Idea for a Universal History* and *What is Enlightenment?*; Condorcet's *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* (Reading Packet)

November 11

### FIRST TERM TEST

### An Early Warning against the Modern Journey

November 18, 25

**Reading:** Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (pp. 1–170)

December 2

## SECOND TERM TEST

### The Transition to a New Era

January 13, 20, 27

**Reading:** Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* (pp. 1–161)

### The Poetic Potential of the Future

February 3, 10, 24

**Reading:** Marx's "Speech on the Anniversary of the Peoples Paper," pp. 368–369; "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 171–173; "Preface to *A Critique of Political Economy*," pp. 424–427; "Letter to Mikhailovsky," 617–619; "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts," pp. 83–95 and 95–104; "German Ideology," pp. 175–198; "Letter to Annenkov," pp. 209–211; "Letter from the *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*," pp. 43–45; "Communist Manifesto," pp. 245–271; "Capital," 472–480 (Reading Packet)

### The Assault on Liberty

March 2, 9

**Reading:** Mill's *On Liberty* (Chapters 1–3)

### The Assault on Greatness

March 16, 23, 30

**Reading:** Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals* (Preface and First Essay); *Beyond Good and Evil* (Parts 1–5 and 9)

April 6

## TERM PAPER DUE/MAKEUP TERM TESTS