

POL320 Y1Y
Modern Political Thought
Summer 2016

Instructor:

Matthew Hamilton

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Office Hours: TBA

Class: Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Course Description:

Through the careful examination of key texts of political theory from the 18th and 19th century, this course investigates changing conceptions of modernity's self-understanding and the effects this holds for interpretations of central political ideas, such as freedom, morality, revolution, life and liberty. The course analyzes the works of Rousseau, Kant, Schiller, Herder, Hegel, Marx, Mill and Nietzsche. In reflecting upon competing accounts of political community, what holds it together and what threatens it, the course focuses upon the intricate relationship between reason and politics. The course studies how differing understandings of rationality, on the one hand, and nature, history, culture, economy, and life, on the other, shape conceptions of politics. In tracking how the questions and problems of modernity are posed and responded to in different ways by each of these thinkers, the course aims to elucidate and open up critical perspectives with which to engage the major historical and conceptual fault lines that continue to shape our contemporary political condition.

Required Texts:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Basic Political Writings*. Hackett.
Immanuel Kant. *Ground of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Cambridge.
G.W.F. Hegel. *Outlines of the Philosophy of Right*. Oxford World Classics.
Karl Marx. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Norton (2nd edition).
John Stuart Mill. *On Liberty and Other Essays*. Oxford World Classics.
Friederich Nietzsche, *The Basic Writings of Nietzsche*, Modern Library
Henry David Thoreau, *Walden and Civil Disobedience*, Signet Classics

The following Texts will be available on blackboard:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "Letter to M. D'Alembert on the Theatre", excerpts
Immanuel Kant, "An Answer to the Question: 'What is Enlightenment?'"
Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, selection
Johann Gottfried Herder, "Ideas for a philosophy of the history of mankind"
G.W.F Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, selection

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, selection
Søren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, selection
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Experience"

Course Requirements:

Participation	10%	
Interpretive Paper (4-5 pgs)	20%	Due Wednesday, June 15th
Critical Analysis Paper (8-10 pgs)	40%	Due Wednesday August 3rd
Final Exam	30%	Exam Period: Aug 9-15th

Course Guidelines:

Critical Thinking:

The aim of this course is to develop critical reading and writing skills through the careful analysis of the history of political thought. 'Critical' thinking skills go beyond the ability to recite or define key ideas, and require students to be able to articulate *how* a particular concept does or does not accomplish what it expressly claims.

Participation:

Students are expected to regularly attend and participate in weekly tutorials. A key aspect of developing critical thinking skill consists in coming to tutorials with questions or problems drawn from close readings of the text. It is important that students come to class and tutorial having already completed the week's readings.

Course work:

Extensions:

Extensions for papers must be approved by the instructors at least a week in advance of their due date. Extensions will not be granted after the due date has elapsed. No extensions will be granted unless students have official U of T documentation (such as Verification of Illness or Injury Form available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca; Student Health or Disability Related Certificate, a College Registrar's letter, or an Accessibility Services letter). Extensions will only be granted in cases where students can clearly demonstrate an exceptional circumstance.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they clearly understand what constitutes plagiarism and to seek help from TAs or instructors prior to submitting work if they are unclear. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the University's numerous writing resources if they have questions concerning plagiarism or any other writing-related matter, including Robarts Library (research inquiries), the various College Writing Centres

(<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>) , writing workshops (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>) the Academic Success Centre (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>).

Students should be aware of the University of Toronto's plagiarism policies (See <http://life.utoronto.ca/get-smarter/academic-honesty/>). The severity of the penalties for committing academic offences should serve as an indication of the extent to which the University of Toronto is committed to upholding the highest standards. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not serve as a satisfactory excuse. Work that is suspected of academic misconduct will be handled according to the University's policies. It should be emphasized that these policies are very clear, and exceptions will not be made. Students will be asked to submit their work through turnitin.com. This website scans the papers against a large database of source material and written work in order to detect cases of plagiarism. In submitting their papers through turnitin.com students should be aware that the website retains a copy of their paper for their database, though only in order to better detect future cases of plagiarism. The terms of this sharing agreement are further specified on the website. Students will NOT be required to submit hard copies of their papers. All written work must be submitted electronically, in a suitable format (.doc, docx, or .pdf), and all feedback/grading will be done electronically. Cultivating clear and honest citation practices is a important element in the development of positive writing skills and habits. Strong preparation and research are the building blocks of all good writing, and are the best safeguards against misconduct in academic work.

It should also be noted that lectures, including slides, are the intellectual property of the instructors and are protected by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students should not record lectures, share or distribute the instructor's intellectual property outside of lecture without asking for explicit permission.

Grading:

Students may contest grades by submitting a one-page written appeal within one week of receiving their marks. The appeal should clearly document the reasons why the work merits a higher grade. The arbitrator of the appeal will re-mark the assignment blindly (without specific knowledge of the grade). This mark may be higher or lower than the original grade.

Office Hours:

Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek out help when they encounter difficulty. It is particularly important not to fall behind in this course. Office hours will be by appointment only. Typically, instructors will also be available before/after lecture.

Blackboard:

Students should closely monitor blackboard/email for important and time-sensitive announcements. The syllabus, certain required readings, study questions, as well as reminders and notices will all be updated on blackboard.

Accessibility Needs:

Students requiring accommodation for disabilities should not hesitate to contact Accessibility Services (<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/index.htm>). Please inform instructors well in advance of due-dates/exams.

Course Outline:

- 1) M, May 9th: Introductory Class: The Politics of Modernity
Overview of the Syllabus; discussion of 'modernity' and politics

The Claim of Nature: Recovering Lost Freedom

- 2) W, May 11th: Rousseau:
Discourse on the Origin of Inequality (1754)
- 3) M, May 16th: Rousseau:
"Letter to d'Alembert on the Theatre" (1758), selection; *On the Social Contract* (1762)
- 4) W, May 18th: Rousseau:
On the Social Contract

Antinomies of the Politics of Pure Reason

- 5) W, May 25th: Kant
"An Answer to the Question: 'What is Enlightenment?'" (1784)
Critique of Pure Reason, (1781) 'third antinomy' A445/B473-A454/B482 (pg 484-489)
- 6) M, May 30th: Kant
Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (1785)
- 7) W, June 1st: Kant
Ground of the Metaphysics of Morals (1785)
Critique of Practical Reason (1788), selection

Transition: Harmony in Culture

- 8) M, June 6th: Responses to Kant, Preludes to Hegel
Herder "Ideas for a philosophy of the history of mankind", selections (1784-91)
Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man* (1795), excerpts

Reason and History: The Movement of Rationality

9) W, June 8th: Hegel
"Self-Consciousness" Par. 166-230 in *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807)

10) M, June 13th: Hegel
Philosophy of Right (1820)
"Preface"
"Introduction" Par.1-33
"Abstract Right" Par. 34-40,Par. 82-104
"Morality" Par. 105-113, par. 129-141

11) W, June 15th: Hegel
"Ethical Life" Par. 142-160; 181-210; 229-256; 272-320

Mid Term Course Break Week of June 20-24th

Reason and History II: The Movement of History

12) M, June 27th: Marx
"Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right" (1843) pp. 16- 25
"On the Jewish Question" (1843) pp. 26-52
"Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction" (1844)
pp. 53-65

13) W, June 29th: Marx
"Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" pp. 66-105
"Theses on Feuerbach" (1845) pp. 143-145.
Excerpts from *The German Ideology* (1846) pp.146-155, 174-175

14) M, July 4th: Marx
"The Manifesto of the Communist Party" (1848) pp. 473-500
"Critique of the Gotha Program" (1875) pp. 525-541
"The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte" (1851) pp. 594-617

Transition: The Claim of Individual Experience

15) W, July 6th: Reason and Experience:
Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, selection (1843)
Henry David Thoreau "Civil Disobedience" (1849)
Ralph Waldo Emerson "Experience" (1844)

Reason, Use and Liberty

15) M, July 11th: Mill
On Liberty (1859) Ch. 1 & 2

16) W, July, 13th: Mill

On Liberty Ch. 3-5

The Truth of Reason/The Truth of Life

18) July 18th: Nietzsche

The Gay Science (1882) "The Parable of the Madman"

On the Genealogy of Morals (1887) Nietzsche's Preface & Essay 1

19) July 20th: Nietzsche

On the Genealogy of Morals, Essays 2 & 3

20) July 25th: Nietzsche

Beyond Good & Evil, Preface and Aphorisms # 1-16, 25-37, 42-44, 55-56, 60-62, 198-203, 211-212, 257-260

21) July 27th: Nietzsche continued & review

22) August 3rd: Paper Due

23) August 8th: Exam Review Session