

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
POL320Y1Y
Modern Political Thought
Summer 2020

Instructors: *First Term:* Daniel Hutton Ferris daniel.huttonferris@mail.utoronto.ca
Second Term: Timothy Berk tim.berk@mail.utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistants: Scott Dodds scott.dodds@mail.utoronto.ca
Andrew Young andrewj.young@mail.utoronto.ca

Lecture: Monday 10-12, Wednesday 10-12

Office Hours: Thursday 11-12 (Danny), TBD (Tim)

Course Overview

This course will follow the trajectories of 18th and 19th Century political thought through the close examination of key thinkers and texts. We will examine the theoretical foundations of the modern liberal democratic nation state, as well as the still influential critiques that have developed along with it. Together, these works and ideas continue to shape the contours of contemporary political life. The course will be structured around a few central questions, including: to what extent politics can, or should, be 'enlightened'; whether the history of modernity is one of progress, decline, or both; how or whether the aspirations of justice, freedom, equality, fraternity, and excellence can be actualized or reconciled within a political community; and the proper relation between the individual and the state.

Course Materials

The following texts are required for course participation and are available for purchase online. We expect the University of Toronto library system to make most of these available to you free online and will update you on this information.

Burke, Edmund. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Oxford World's Classics 2009, edited by Mitchell (ISBN-10: 9780199539024, ISBN-13: 978-0199539024).

Gandhi, Mahatma. *'Hind Swaraj' and Other Writings*. Cambridge University Press 2009, edited by Parel. (ISBN-13: 9780521146029, ISBN-10: 052114602X).

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. *Introduction to the Philosophy of History: With Selections from the Philosophy of Right*. Hackett 1988, translated by Rauch (ISBN-13: 9780872200562, ISBN-10: 0872200566).

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*. Cambridge University Press 1991, edited by Wood. (ISBN-13: 9780521348881, ISBN-10: 0521348889).

Herder, Johann Gottfried von. *Herder on Social and Political Culture*. Cambridge University Press 2010, edited by Barnard. (ISBN-13: 9780521133814, ISBN-10: 0521133815).

Kang, Youwei, *Ta t'ung Shu: The One-World Philosophy of K'ang Yu-wei*. Allen & Unwin 2007, translated by Thompson. (ISBN-10: 0415612403, ISBN-13: 978-0415612401).

Kant, Immanuel, *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History*, Yale 2006, translated by Colclasure (ISBN-10: 0300110707 / ISBN-13: 978-0300110708).

Marx, Karl. *Selected Writings*, (Second Edition) Oxford University Press 2000, edited by David McLellan (ISBN-10: 0198782659 / ISBN-13: 978-0198782650).

Mill, John Stuart, *On Liberty and Other Writings*, Cambridge 1989 edition edited by Collini (ISBN-10: 0521379172, ISBN-13: 978-0521379175).

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morality*. Cambridge 2017 translated by Carol Diethe (ISBN-10: 9781316602591 / ISBN-13: 978-1316602591).

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, *The Basic Political Writings*. Hackett 2012 edition translated by Cress (ISBN-10: 1603846735 / ISBN-13: 978-1603846738).

Wollstonecraft, Mary, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman and A Vindication of the Rights of Men*. Oxford World's Classics 2009, edited by Todd (ISBN-10: 019955546X, ISBN-13: 978-0199555468).

Evaluation

- **First Essay** 1500-2000 words (June 24) (30%)
- **Second Essay** 2500-3000 words (August 7) (30%)
- **Exam** Take-home format (August - TBD) (30%)

- **Course Participation (10%)**

Students will be required to write two papers throughout the term. Students will also write a take home exam at the end of the semester. Course participation grades will take into account students' tutorial attendance, preparation, and online participation and engagement. Late papers will be penalized 3% per day.

If you have concerns regarding an assignment mark you should present a detailed written explanation (approximately 1 page single spaced) of why you feel the grade is unjustified within two weeks of receiving the grade in question. Once an appeal is submitted, the entire assignment will be re-examined. The appeal process can result in no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

Online Lectures and Tutorials

Lectures will run live from 10-12 MW on Blackboard Collaborate (available on our Quercus course page). While we aim to record and post our lectures for subsequent viewing, it is the responsibility of students to attend lectures live in case of recording errors.

Students must register online for tutorials, which will also run live on Blackboard Collaborate. We ask students to have a microphone ready for their participation.

Quercus, E-mail, and Communication

All students should ensure that they are registered on the course on Quercus, once term has begun, as reading materials & course announcements will be posted electronically. You must make sure to regularly check your utoronto email account to make sure that you receive important email notices.

We will endeavor to respond to emails within 48 hours. Email is for short clarification questions only. If you have concerns or questions that cannot be answered in a short response please see us during office hours. Please use your University of Toronto email address for all communication.

Cheating

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Turnitin.com: 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 with principled objections to the use of Turnitin.com can make alternative arrangements with the professor. Such arrangements might include the requirement that all rough work is handed in with the paper or that the student include an annotated bibliography with the paper. Alternative arrangements will be decided upon in consultation with the U of T Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodation for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible (disability.services@utoronto.ca or studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility).

Schedule

1. Introduction (May 4th)

Born Free but Everywhere in Chains: The Limits and Possibilities of Modern Politics

2. Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (May 6th)
3. Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books 1 and 2 (May 11th)
4. Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books 3 and 4 (May 13th)

Enlightenment and World Peace I: The View from Prussia

5. Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?" and "Theory and Practice" (May 20th)
6. Kant, "Perpetual Peace" (May 25th)

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity? Responses to the French Revolution.

7. Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 1-10, 33-38, 50-80, 245-50 (May 27th)

8. Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, chs 1-2, 6, 12, 13 section 6, pp. 71-104, 191-97, 280-83 (June 1st)

Liberalism, Democracy, and the Tyranny of the Majority.

9. Mill, *On Liberty* (June 3rd)
10. Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, Chapters 1-5 (June 8th)

Enlightenment and World Peace II: The View from the Middle Kingdom.

11. Kang, *Great Peace*, Parts 1-4 (excluding chart), pp. 61 – 104, 134-49 (June 10th)
12. Kang, *Great Peace*, Parts 5-7, pp. 149-230 (June 15th)

[Term Break]

some reading selections for the second semester may be slightly amended, in which case an updated syllabus will be posted prior to the resumption of classes

Romanticism, Nationalism, and Historicism

13. Herder, *Herder on Social and Political Culture*, "Yet Another Philosophy of History" (July 6th)
14. Herder, *Herder on Social and Political Culture*, "Ideas for a Philosophy of the History of Mankind" (selections) (July 8th)

History as Progress I: The Constitutional State as the Goal of History

15. Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, chapters 1-3, p. 3-57 (July 13th)
16. Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, chapters 4 and 6, p. 57-83, 92-99; *Philosophy of Right*, 'Preface' (July 15th)
17. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, 'Ethical Life' (selections) (July 20th)

History as Progress II: Communism as the Goal of History

18. Marx, "Towards a Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* : Introduction"; "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (sections on 'Alienated Labour' and 'Private Property and Communism') (July 22nd)

19. Marx, "The German Ideology, Part 1"; "Theses on Feuerbach" (July 27th)

20. Marx, "Manifesto of the Communist Party", "Preface to a Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy" (July 29th)

Nietzsche's Radical Aristocratic Critique of Modern Politics

21. Nietzsche, Selections (to be posted on Blackboard) + *On the Genealogy of Morality*, "On the Genealogy of Morality", Introduction and First Essay (August 5th)

22. Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Second and Third Essays (August 10th)

23. Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, selections (to be posted on Blackboard) (August 12th)

Epilogue: Reflections on the Legacy of European Political Thought

24. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*, Preface, Forward, Chapters 1-9, 13-14, 16-20 (August 17th)