

## **Political Science 291: History of Political Thought II Political Theory from Hobbes to Freud**

This course introduces students to many of the most important political thinkers in the West from the Seventeenth through the Twentieth century, including: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Burke, Hegel, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche and Freud. The focus throughout will be on the assumptions that each thinker makes about human nature and the vision of a good society that flows from those assumptions. More specifically, we shall see that different accounts of the function and structure of the State, or of government more broadly understood, are rooted in different assumptions about the nature of, and relationship between, human reason and human passion. Since virtually all contemporary political discourse -- including contemporary Political Science -- is either explicitly or (more often) implicitly based on one or more of those assumptions, a critical analysis of these assumptions is indispensable for a comprehension of contemporary political discourse.

The following required readings are available for purchase at the University Bookstore at Student Center East:

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*  
Iain Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought*  
David Wooten, ed., *Modern Political Thought*

A mid-term take-home essay exam and a final take-home essay exam are required. Students will also be obliged to hand in five (ungraded) memos in which they a) identify a central claim made by the theorist; b) summarize the main arguments the theorist makes to support that claim; and c) evaluate the arguments that support that claim, i.e., indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with those arguments (and thus that claim), and explain why. Memos of from *two to three (double-spaced typed) pages* will be due on Thursday of weeks three, six, nine, twelve, and fifteen (September 10, October 1, October 22, November 11, and December 3).

It should go without saying that students are expected to come to class having *done the required reading* and therefore being prepared to ask questions and make comments during lectures and discussions. As is always the case, you will only get as much from this course as you put into it.

- Week 1 Introduction: Why Study Political Theory?
- Weeks 2-3 Thomas Hobbes
- Leviathan*, in Wooten, ed., *Modern Political Thought*, pp. 122-36; 140-45; 153-63; 169-84; 187-209; 249-263 and chapter XLVI, "Of Darkness from Vain Philosophy and Fabulous Traditions" (xerox handout, read *first*)  
Hampshire-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought*, ch.1 (pp.1-67)
- Weeks 4-5 John Locke
- Second Treatise of Government*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 310-386 (skip pp. 382-385)  
Hampshire-Monk, ch. 2 (pp. 69-115)
- Weeks 6-7 Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 404-464  
*On the Social Contract*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 464-484; 488- 493; 505-517; 528-534.  
Hampshire-Monk, ch. 4 (pp.152-195)
- Week 8 Immanuel Kant
- pp. 573-577 "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?", in Wooten, ed.,  
*Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp.55-73 only. (xerox handout)  
*Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch* (xerox handout)
- Week 9 Edmund Burke
- Reflections on the Revolution in France*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 551-572  
Hampshire-Monk, ch.6 (pp. 261-303)
- Week 10 Georg Hegel
- Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 742-763  
*Hegel's Philosophy of Right* (xerox handout). Read all paragraphs other than 260-261 *before* the material in Wooten.  
Hampshire-Monk, ch.9 (pp. 409-482)
- Week John Stuart Mill

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*On Liberty*, in Wooten, pp. 605-672  
Hampshire-Monk, ch.8 (pp. 339-408)

Weeks  
12-13

Karl Marx

*On The Jewish Question*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 764-778; *Alienated Labor*,  
in Wooten, ed., pp. 790-797; *The Communist Manifesto* (with Friedrich  
Engels), Parts I-II, and IV, in Wooten, ed., pp. 826-839; 845-846; *The  
Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 847-861;  
*The Civil War in France*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 874-883; *Critique of the  
Gotha Program*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 884-894  
Hampshire-Monk, ch.10 (pp. 483-511; 515-516; 528-540; 559-561)

Week  
14

Friedrich Nietzsche

*On The Genealogy of Morals*, in Wooten, ed., pp. 895-946

Week  
15

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, pp.10-112.

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