

History of Political Theory III: Modern Sources of Political Philosophy

Spring-2018

POLS 3202-02

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UW- 3:30-4:45- WALEED C152

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*I keep six honest serving men (They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When And How and
Where and Who.*

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

A sage (Karl Jaspers) once said: "University life is no less dependent on students than on professors. The best professors flounder helplessly at a school where the student body is unfit. Hence, it is all up to the young people who are supposedly entitled to study. They must show themselves worthy of this privilege to the best of their ability."

This course has been organized on the premise that you are worthy of this privilege. The success of this course depends entirely on your continued and sustained participation. Thus, I ask that you be agile participants and intervene as often as possible in class discussion by posing questions and comments or even disagreements (based on additional or alternative readings or personal experiences).

In this course you will be exposed to a wide range of ideas, norms, preferences, and values different from your own. This exposure may force you to question, rethink (and if needed, abandon) your present "understanding" of your own political life. Who knows by the end of the course you might feel that you have taken part in a serendipitous voyage of discovery!

The readings will introduce the students to some of the more important scholarship on the subject, and form the springboard for interactive class discussions. Please do not hesitate to drop by my office should you have problems with the course, or just want to talk. My office hours provide us with an opportunity to get to know each other better. So, it is incumbent upon you to take advantage of my office hours to pursue interests and concerns not raised in class. Students who may need special consideration because of any sort of disability should make an appointment to see me in private at the beginning of the semester.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

In addition to the above issue, my main priority now is to promote academic quality and make sure that students who come out of my classes meet the highest educational standards. This is a shared responsibility of the instructor and the students. My part is to come to class prepared, update my lectures, be involved, address your questions, and be available during office hours. Your part is to come to class on time, do the readings in advance, raise questions and participate effectively in class discussions, turn in your assignments on time, and be involved. Let us all strive to fight mediocrity (According to Oxford Dictionary, a mediocre person is: indifferent, ordinary, common place, average, medium, third-rate, inferior, and poor).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A) Participation	10%
B) Midterm	20%
C) Reaction Papers	20% (10% x 2)
D) Final paper	20% (draft 10% + final 10%)
E) 4 Pop quizzes	10%
E) Final exam	20%

A) Participation: In view of the fact that my presentations will complement rather than reiterate the assigned readings, it is expected that you attend *all* class meetings. You will be held responsible for all the material we cover in readings, lectures, and films. Attendance is also mandatory for all exams, and make-ups will be given only for bona fide emergencies (i.e., severe illness documented by a physician). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If, for unavoidable reasons, you are unable to make it to a class on time, you are welcome to join us when you are able. However, students who arrive after attendance has been taken will not be counted as present. Chronic lateness and absence is unacceptable. **Absences will result in a lowered participation grade.** In addition to being physically present, I expect you to be mentally present as well! As such, you should complete all assigned readings *before* each class meeting, so that you are familiar with the concepts, facts, theories, and controversies with which we are dealing. All students should be aware that participation is heavily weighted and is meant to stimulate lively classroom discussion. There is no correct interpretation or opinion about a given text, but there are degrees of value for argumentation and reasonability. Students are therefore highly encouraged to voice their opinions and to offer challenging commentary in class, but to do so with an emphasis upon justification, coherence and reasoning. Excellent participation means consistent and ongoing contribution to our discussion and analysis of the texts

B) Pop Quizzes: Pop quizzes will be given on a random and irregular bases over the semester.. Best four scores for each student will be recorded.. Each quiz will be 5-10 minutes time and will cover the readings assigned for this day.

C) Course Papers:

i) **2 Reaction papers:** Each student will be responsible for writing two reaction papers (1500-2000 words). In each of these papers, students will be asked to respond to something that they found particularly compelling in one of the readings. They should choose a contentious issue or set of issues in one particular reading, take a position on these issues , provide argumentation in support and analyze this reading's take on the issue.. **IMPORTANT:**

1st reaction paper deadline: March 28th

2nd reaction paper deadline: May 2nd

ii) **Final paper:** Students should formulate a paper topic as early as possible. This is an opportunity for you to present and defend a thesis in an argumentative paper format using textual support. Students are encouraged to put different authors in comparative perspective or take a single philosopher as a case-study. Creativity is welcomed The final paper is made up of two parts:

a) **Draft:** Students will be responsible for submitting a draft version 1 months prior to the final deadline. This draft will be worth 10% and will provide you with feedback useful to the completion of the final paper. The draft submission should be 6-10 pages long (300 words/page).

Draft submission deadline: April 25th

b) **Final Paper Submission:** After receiving feedback on their draft submission, students will have a chance to revise and develop their papers. Given the feedback on all previous assignments, it will be assumed that students will have a full understanding of the demands of the argumentative paper form and will be graded accordingly. Final submission length is 10-15 pages (300 words/page).

Final submission deadline: May 13th

Should you have any concerns whatsoever regarding academic writing and the development of an argumentative paper, I strongly suggest you visit the AUC writing center where you can drop-in for feedback and support on your papers before, during or after the writing process:. The writing center also has an excellent, step by step guide to academic paper writing. Also, the course's teaching assistant is authorized to help you on this process. Papers which do not adhere to the argumentative format will not merit higher than a satisfactory grade.

C) Exams:

A midterm and a final in-class exam.. Format will be explained later over the course. Final will NOT be cumulative

D) Movie nights:

Movies related to the course material will be screened over the semester at night followed by discussions.. Attendance is non-mandatory but rewarded by bonus points.. Exact schedule and bonus system will be explained separately

Course outline

January 30th- February 4th

Introduction

What is Political Theory? What is Modernity?

The problem of pluralism and the role of the sovereign. The state of nature, war of all against all.

Kelly, P. *Introduction to Modern Political Thought*, 17-26;

Boucher and Kelly, Boucher, D. and Paul Kelly (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. pp. 163-180;

Cahn, Steven M. *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts* pp. 312-343)

Leo Strauss, *What can we learn from political theory?* pp. 515-29

Chantal Mouffee, *On the Political*, chapters 1& 2, pp. 1-34.

Part 1:

The Authority of Reason: The Social Contract Tradition

Thomas Hobbes: State of nature, social contract, Resistance and rebellion, Fear and politics, constituting the state and Belief as a political problem

February 7th- 11th

Readings:

Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan*

Carl Schmitt, *The Leviathan in the State Theory of Thomas Hobbes*
(pp. 5-87)

Part 2: Enlightenment

John Locke : Natural law, contract and consent and natural rights, right of rebellion and toleration

February 14th- 18th

Readings:

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
John Locke, On toleration

Kant and Spinoza: Faith and feeling of freedom

February 21st – 25th

Readings:

Baruch Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise* (selections)

Immanuel Kant, *Answering the question : What is Enlightenment?*”

Schiller, *Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man*(Introduction and Letters 1-11, 16, 24-27)

Michel Foucault, “*Answering the question again: What is Enlightenment?*”

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, critical discourse on inequality, conditions of the free society, public will, civil religion and Social contract

February 28th -March 4th

Readings:

Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, pp.69-92

Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Books 1- 3 (pp.155-224)

Kelly, pp. 45-52; Boucher and Kelly, pp. 235-252; Cahn, pp. 422-436, 437-465)

Part 3: Historical Progress and its Crisis: Rethinking reason and revolution

Humanity before history, fragments of history, sociability, catastrophe, progress, Romanticism and confronting barbarism

March 7th

Readings:

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* (part 1 and 2)

Isiah Berlin, *Roots of Romanticism* (Selections)

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Preface; Self-Consciousness)

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Self-Alienated Spirit – Culture)

Walter Benjamin, “*Theses on the Philosophy of History*”

Modern conservatism: Edmund Burke

March 11th

Readings:

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Selections)

Modern Liberalism: Liberty, utilitarianism, rights, individuality, women’s rights and fear of tyranny of the majority

March 14th

Readings:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (Selections)

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, chs. 1-2

Kelly, pp. 35-43; Boucher and Kelly, pp. 324-342; Cahn, pp. 741-746, 747-807)

Historicism: Hegel’s philosophy of right and history

March 18th

Readings:

Kelly, pp. 53-66; Boucher and Kelly, pp. 383-403; Cahn, pp. 671-685, 686-695

Part 4: The End(s) of Modernity

Anarchism and Marxism : Human essence and alienation, the critique of the modern state, Historical communist alternative

March 21st- 25th

Readings:

Marx's life and works. The Paris Manuscripts, The German Ideology and The Manifesto in historical and intellectual context: overview, key questions and basic issues. Marx as a philosopher, political theorist and activist.

(Kelly, pp. 67-76; Boucher and Kelly, pp. 404-418, 419-435; Cahn, pp. 701-737)

Alienation: Marx, "*Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*" ("Estranged Labor" and other selections) and *the German Ideology* (Preface, pp.162-163)

Class Struggle: Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (complete)

Philosophy of history: Marx, "*The Materialist Conception of History*" (pp.163-71), *Theses on Feuerbach* "*Communism as the end of history*" (pp. 189-95),
"Law and the materialist conception of history" (pp.183-6)

Political change:

Marx, *Philosophy of Poverty or Poverty of Philosophy?*

Marx, *The 18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon* (complete)

Marx, *The civil war in France* (selections)

Marx, *On the Jewish question*(selections)

Engels, Frederick. *The Origins of family* (selections)

Engels, Frederick. *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* (selections).

Anarchy:

Bakunin, Michael Bakunin, *Statism and Anarchy* (Selections)

Nikolai Chernyshevsky, *What is to be done?*

Anti- Enlightenment morality and politics: Nietzsche

March 28th

Readings:

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a philosophy of the future* (selections)

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (Preface and Essays 1-3)

Karl Schmidt, *The Concept of the Political* (Selections)

Modern Rationality (Part I)

April 11th

Readings:

Max Weber, “*Science as a Vocation*”

Max Weber, “*Politics as a Vocation*”

Part 5: Contemporary Political Theory

Modern Marxism

April 15th

Readings:

Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks* (Selections)

Selections from works of Lenin, Karl Kautsky and Rosa Luxemburg

Leon Trotsky, *Permanent Revolution* (Selections) and *Betrayed Revolution* (Selections)

Other readings TBA

Modern Socialism

April 18th

Readings:

George Bernard Shaw, *The Intelligent Woman’s guide to Socialism and Capitalism* (Selections)

Harold Laski, *A Grammar of Politics* (Selections)

Modern Liberalism:

April 22nd

Readings:

Tom Paine, *Common sense* (Selections)

Alexander Hamilton , James Madison and John Jay, *Federalist papers* (selections)

Karl Popper, *Open Society and its enemies* (Selections)

Universal Declaration of Human rights (complete)

Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (Selections)

Raymon Aron, *Opium of the intellectuals* (Selections)

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy* (Selections)

John Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (Selections)

Modern Neo-Liberalism

April 25th

Readings:

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (Selections)

Frederick Hayek, *The road to Serfdom* (Selections)

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of history and the Last Man”, *The National Interest*, 1989

Modern civil society

April 29th

Readings:

Ernest Gellner, *Civil Society and its rivals* (Selections)

Antonio Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks* (Selections from the Modern prince and civil society chapters)

Jurgen Habermas, *Structural Transformations of the Public Sphere* (Selections)

Albert Camus, *The Rebel Man* (Selections)

Vaclav Havel, *Power of the Powerless* (Selections)

Other readings TBA

Modern Critical Theory

May 2nd

Readings:

Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Selections)

Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man* (Selections)
Hannah Arendt, *Origins of totalitarianism* (Selections)
Arendt, *On revolution* (Selections)
Arendt, “What is freedom?” in *Between Past and Future*
Colin Wilson, *The Outsider* (Selections)
Other readings TBA

Modern conservatism:

May 6th

Readings:

Alasdair Macintyre: *After virtue* (Selections)
Michael Oakeshott, “*On Being Conservative*”, Selections from “*Politics of Faith and Politics of Skepticism*”

Post-structuralism and bio-politics

May 13th

Readings:

Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge, Foucault-Chomsky debate and Paris lectures* (Selections)
Frederick Jameson, *Post-Modernism or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (Selections)
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire* (Selections)
Slavoj Zizek, *In Defense of Lost Causes* (Selections)
Richard J.F.Day. *Gramsci is Dead: Anarchist Currents in the Newest Social Movements*(Selections)
Other readings, TBA

Alain Badiou. Communist hypothesis

Modern Radicalism

Losduro.. Liberalism

Losurdo. Revolution

Guideline to radicals

Additional Readings on Modern Political Thought:

Reinhart Koselleck, *Critique and Crisis: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society* (The MIT Press, 1988)

Hannah Arendt, "Tradition and the Modern Age" in *Between Past and Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought* (Penguin, 1993)

Leo Strauss, "Three Waves of Modernity" in *An Introduction to Political Philosophy: Ten Essays* (Wayne State University Press, 1989)

Hans Blumenberg, *The Legitimacy of the Modern Age* (The MIT Press, 1982)

Hans Gumbrecht, "A History of the Concept 'Modern,' " in *Making Sense in Life and Literature* (Minnesota University Press, 1992)

Jürgen Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity: Twelve Lectures* (The MIT Press, 1987)

Bruno Latour, *We Have Never Been Modern* (Harvard University Press 1993)

Robert Pippin, *Modernism as Philosophical Problem: On The Dissatisfactions of European High Culture* (Wiley-Blackwell, 1999)

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