# Ohio State University Economics 3002

**Tradition, Progress, and Utopia 11:10-12:30 TTh Fall 2019**

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# Overview

This course examines three ways of thinking about social and political change, each of which captures something important about social and political life, and each of which has significant blind spots. The first focuses on certain “traditional” values or ways of life that should be protected and preserved. The second envisions a future of steady progress toward an identifiable social or political ideal. The third looks forward to a radical social transformation that allows us to transcend existing institutions and values. We will explore each of these ways of thinking by seeing how they orient us toward four important concepts in the study of political economy: nature, community, labor, and order.

# Readings

All of the required readings have been placed on e-reserve through Carmen.

# Requirements

1. Four 800-word response papers, each worth 20% of the final grade. Students must submit a paper for each of the four substantive sections of the course (nature, community, labor, and order). Prompts will be distributed at the beginning of each section, and each paper is due at noon on the Monday after the relevant section has been completed. Late essays will be penalized one full grade, and will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.
2. In-class final examination during the canonical slot for courses that meet at this time. The exam will cover all of the course material in short-answer format, and is worth 20% of the final grade. We will hold a review session during the last scheduled class session.
3. Careful reading preparation and active class participation are expected. Grades will be adjusted up or down by as much as one-third of a grade on this basis.

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# Policies and procedures

**Academic misconduct:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc.](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc)

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 West 12th Avenue; telephone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; [http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/)

# Grade scale

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 60-66

F 0-59

**Schedule**

# Weeks 1-2: Introductory

Tradition

1. Michael Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative” Friedrich Hayek, “Why I Am Not a Conservative”

Progress

1. John Dewey, “Renascent Liberalism” Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?”

Utopia

1. Friedrich Engels, “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific” Michel Foucault, “Useless to Revolt?”

# Weeks 2-4: Nature

Tradition: Stewardship

1. Henry David Thoreau, “Walking”

Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac*, selections Rod Dreher, “Birkenstocked Burkeans”

Progress: Sustainability

1. Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, selections

Jeffrey Sachs, *The Age of Sustainability*, chapter 6 Matt Zwolinski, “Libertarianism and Pollution”

1. Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*, selections

Masoud Movahed, “Does Capitalism Have to be Bad for the Environment?”

Utopia: Post-anthropocentrism

1. Jedediah Purdy, *After Nature*, selections

# Weeks 4-7: Community

Tradition: Localism

1. Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, chapters 4-6, 12 Michael Sandel, “America in Search of a Public Philosophy”

Progress: Liberalism, globalization & colonialism

1. Immanuel Kant, “Idea of a Universal History With Cosmopolitan Purpose” John Stuart Mill, “Civilization”
2. Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents*, chapters 1-3, 9

John Gray, *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism*, chapters 1 & 8

1. Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, selections Mohandas Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*, selections

Utopia: Cosmopolitanism

1. W. E. B. Du Bois, “Prospect of a World without Race Conflict” Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”
2. Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism” Michael Harrington, “The Creation of the World”

# Weeks 7-10: Labor

Tradition: Wage labor, slavery, and citizenship

1. Aristotle, *Politics*, book 1, chapters 4-6; book 3, chapter 5; book 8, chapters 1-3 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, book 3, chapter 15

Abraham Lincoln, “Address before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society”

Progress: Labor, equality, and gender

1. David Hume, “Of Commerce”

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, book 1, chapters 1-2; book 5, chapter 1, selection

1. William Graham Sumner, “The Forgotten Man”

T. H. Green, “Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract”

1. Susan Moller Okin, “Vulnerability by Marriage”

Nancy Fraser, “Women, Welfare, and the Politics of Need Interpretation”

Utopia: Post-labor economies

1. John Stuart Mill, *Principles of Political Economy*, book 4, chapter 6, “Of the Stationary State” John Maynard Keynes, “Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren”
2. Kevin Drum, “Welcome, Robot Overlords. Please Don’t Fire Us?”

Kevin Drum, “You Will Lose Your Job to a Robot – and Sooner Than You Think”

# Weeks 10-13: Order

Tradition: The organic society

1. Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, selections Friedrich Hayek, *Law, Legislation and Liberty*, chapter 2
2. Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” Jane Addams, “Survivals of Militarism in Civil Government”

Progress: Democracy and the rule of law

1. Robert Dahl, *On Democracy*, selections

Jürgen Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy”

1. Abraham Lincoln, “Lyceum Address”

Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

1. Angela Y. Davis, “Racialized Punishment and Prison Abolition” Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, chapter 5

Utopia: Anarchism

1. Leo Tolstoy, “Letter on Non-Resistance”

Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation,” selection

1. Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For”

Robert Paul Wolff, *In Defense of Anarchism*, selections

1. Review for final exam