

Political Science 672

History of Political Thought from the French Revolution to the First World War

Spring 2005

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Mon., Wed. 9:30-11:18am
Office hrs: Wed. 1-3pm
2127 Derby Hall

This course surveys the history of political thought in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century, from (roughly) Kant to Nietzsche. We will devote attention to such thinkers as the American Founders, Paine, Burke, Constant, Tocqueville, Bentham, Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and Weber. Some familiarity with either moral and political philosophy or modern intellectual history will be helpful, but it is not a prerequisite for the course.

Course Requirements

There are three main course requirements:

1. Quizzes. There will be a series of unannounced quizzes over the course of the quarter designed to ensure class preparation and check reading comprehension. These quizzes will be given at the start of class at least seven times throughout the quarter. Each student's top five quiz scores will be counted, and each quiz will be worth five percent of the final grade (for a total of 25%).
2. Midterm paper. A 6-8 page paper on an assigned topic due on Wednesday, April 27 in class. Topics will be distributed on April 20. The midterm paper counts for 25% of the final grade.
3. Final paper. A 12-15 page paper on an assigned topic due on June 3 by 4:00pm in the instructor's mailbox. Topics will be distributed not later than May 25. The final paper counts for 50% of the final grade.

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at the Ohio State Book Store, SBX, and Long's.

Mitchell Cohen and Nicole Fermon, eds., *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*. Princeton University Press, 1996

Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*. Edited Ted Miller. Indiana: Hackett, ????

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays*. Edited John Gray. Oxford University Press, 1991.

There is also a required coursepack available for purchase at SBX. The cost of the coursepack is approximately \$20.

Course Policies

Attendance – Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and to have prepared adequately with respect to the assigned readings. Periodic quizzes over the reading will help to motivate both regular attendance and adequate preparation. There is no other sanction for missing a lecture, and it is not necessary to obtain prior approval from the instructor when missing a class meeting is unavoidable. Students bear the entire responsibility for the decision to miss class and for whatever effect that may have on their quiz scores or their comprehension of the course material.

Academic Honesty – The work students submit as their midterm and final papers must be entirely their own. In addition citing the assigned readings as evidence, students who draw on secondary sources or the interpretations of others must acknowledge their sources and debts, and students who quote from other sources **must** make this clear by their use of quotation marks and citations. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will in every instance be referred to the appropriate university disciplinary authorities.

Midterm and final papers – Midterm and final papers are to be critical essays on assigned topics. Students who wish to propose an alternative topic may do so not later than the class period following the distribution of assigned topics. The instructor's policy is not to review drafts of papers before submission, but the instructor is willing to discuss topics, arguments, etc., during office hours or appointments, and to review one-page summaries of thesis statements, paper outlines, etc., when these are submitted to him well in advance (not less than three full days prior to the due date). Portions of the midterm paper, suitably revised, may be incorporated into the final paper where appropriate, though in no case should the new material in the final paper be less than the minimum length of the paper (12 new pages).

Late penalties – Papers must be turned in at the assigned time and place. **Papers may be submitted by email only in special circumstances and with the prior express permission of the instructor.** A penalty up to 1/3 of a letter grade will be assessed for each day the paper is late.

Office hours – The instructor is available for conferences with students either during office hours or, when meeting during office hours is not possible, by appointment. Students who would like to discuss issues raised in lecture further than class discussions will permit, or students who encounter difficulties with the course or the assigned material, are especially encouraged to attend office hours.

Disabilities -- *Students with disabilities should make their needs known to the instructor and seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880, also in the first week of the quarter.*

Exceptions to course policies – These policies will be the general rules for the course. In extraordinary circumstances the instructor may find it appropriate to modify these policies in particular cases. Students who wish to ask for any modification must apply to the instructor as far in advance as possible. They must also verify the modification **in writing**, either by email or memorandum. **No course policy can be modified without written confirmation from the instructor.** It is the student's responsibility to generate a written record of the modification.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Monday, March 28

Introduction and overview of course; *Declaration of the Rights of Man* (distributed in class)

I. The Age of Revolution

Wednesday, March 30

Declaration of Independence and *Federalist* (in Cohen reader); Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, selections in Cohen reader and also selections in coursepack, pp. 118-127, 148-153, 186-195

Monday, April 4

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* selections in coursepack, pp. 227-229, 266-267, 274-285, 372-377; Burke, "Speech at Bristol" (in coursepack); Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*, selections (in coursepack)

II. The Age of Liberalism

A. Constant and Tocqueville

Wednesday, April 6

Benjamin Constant, "The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns (in coursepack)

Monday, April 11

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (in Cohen reader)

B. Utilitarianism

Wednesday, April 13

Jeremy Bentham (in Cohen reader and in coursepack); John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ch. 1-2

Monday, April 18

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* ch. 3-5

Wednesday, April 20

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, ch. 1-2

Monday, April 25

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, ch. 3-5

C. Early Feminism

Wednesday, April 27

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, Marie Olympe de Gournay, *Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizens*, Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (in Cohen reader)

MIDTERM PAPERS DUE TODAY, IN CLASS, 9:30am.

III. The Age of Idealism

A. Kant

Monday, May 2

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (selections in coursepack): "An Answer to the Question, What is Enlightenment?" and "Theory and Practice, Part I" in *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*.

Wednesday, May 4

Immanuel Kant, "Theory and Practice, Parts II and III" and "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch" in *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*

B. Hegel

Monday, May 9

G.F.W. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, (selections in Cohen reader and in coursepack)

IV. Critiques of Idealism

A. Marx and Marxism

Wednesday, May 11

Karl Marx – "Preface" to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (in Cohen reader); "The Communist Manifesto" (in Cohen reader)

Monday, May 16

Karl Marx – “Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts” (in Cohen reader and in coursepack);
“Theses on Feuerbach” and *The German Ideology*, Pt. I (selections in coursepack);

Wednesday, May 18

Karl Marx, *Capital* (selections in coursepack)

Monday, May 23

Karl Marx, *Capital* (cont'd.); Karl Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program” (in Cohen reader) and
V.I. Lenin, “What Is To Be Done?” and “The State and Revolution” (in Cohen reader)

B. Visions of The Future

1. Nietzsche

Wednesday, May 25

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality* (in Cohen reader)

FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED TODAY; DUE BACK FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Monday, May 30

Class dismissed: Memorial Day holiday.

2. Weber

Wednesday, June 1

Max Weber (selections in Cohen reader and coursepack)

Friday, June 3

FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY BY 4:00pm, IN INSTRUCTOR'S MAILBOX

