

W 4134 Modern Political Thought

Spring 2007

Monday/Wednesday 11-12:15

Location: Mondays, 711 IAB

Wednesdays, Thorndike Hall 959

(Teacher's College)

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Office Hours: Thursday, 12-2pm

I. Course Overview:

This course offers an overview of classic texts in modern political theory, focusing specifically on the social contract tradition and its critics. In this course, we will investigate important philosophical questions of legitimate authority, rights, and the bases of political obligation; as well as attempt interpretive readings of the major thinkers in the tradition.

II. Course Requirements:

Graduate Students: One Final Paper (due May 5) of 25-30pp.

Undergraduate Students: 3 Papers of 1000 words each (1st paper due: Feb. 20; 2nd paper due: March 24; 3d paper due: May 5)

III. Required Texts:

All required texts for this class have been ordered at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street New York, NY 10025, (212) 865-1588

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Gaskin, (Oxford)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, (Hackett)

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, (Hackett)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *A Discourse Concerning Inequality and other early political writings*, ed. Gourevitch, (Cambridge)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract and other later political writings*, ed. Gourevitch, (Cambridge)

Immanuel Kant, *Practical Philosophy*, ed. Gregor, (Cambridge)

G. W. F. Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right*, (Cambridge)

Karl Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Tucker, (Norton)

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism, on Liberty, Considerations on Representative Government*, ed. Williams, (Tuttle)

Those readings marked [**Courseworks**] on the schedule can be accessed by downloading a PDF file from the course web page (<https://courseworks.columbia.edu>).

IV. Schedule:

January 23: Course Introduction

January 28: Hobbes, *Elements of Law*, pp. 19-108. [Courseworks]

January 30: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 1-16, esp. ch 13-16, pp. 82-110.

February 4: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 22-31.

February 6: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 32-34, 46, Review and Conclusion.

February 11: Locke, *Second Treatise*, ch. 1-7.

February 13: Locke, *Second Treatise*, ch. 8-19.

February 18: Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*.

February 20: Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (entire).

February 25: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Books I-II.

February 27: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Books III-IV.

March 3: Rousseau, *Constitution for the Government of Poland*

March 5: Hume, "Of the Original Contract," and Hume, Treatise of Human Nature Book III, Part I, and Part II, section 1, pp. 455-484 [Courseworks]

March 10: Hume, Treatise of Human Nature, Book III, Part II, sections 2-10, pp. 484-567. [Courseworks]

March 12: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, Part I, (Metaphysical First Principles and Private Right)

March 24: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, Part II, Section I (Public Right, Section I) and "On the Common Saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice."

March 26: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, Part II, Sections II and III, (Right of Nations and Cosmopolitan Right) and "Perpetual Peace."

March 31: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Preface and Introduction, pp. 9-62

April 2: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Abstract Right and Morality, pp. 65-185.

April 7: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Ethical Life: Family and Civil Society, pp. 187-273.

April 9: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*: The State, pp. 275-379.

April 14: Marx, "Critique of Hegel's Doctrine of the State," in *Early Writings*, 57-198.
[Courseworks]

April 16: Marx, "On the Jewish Question" and "The German Ideology" in *Marx-Engels Reader*

April 21: Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," in *Marx-Engels Reader*

April 23: Marx, "Communist Manifesto," "Critique of the Gotha Program," extract from *Capital*, vol. 1, *Marx-Engels Reader*, 302-61; 419-31

April 28: Mill, *On Liberty*, (entire)

April 30: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, ch. 1-7.

May 5: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, ch. 8-13.