

Dalhousie University Department of Political Science
Foundations of Political Thought 1790-1900
Political Science 2420/Philosophy 222
Winter 2014
Instructor: C. Doonan
Location: Studley Chemistry 226

COURSE SUMMARY:

Political Science 2420, along with Political Science 2410, is an introduction to political philosophy and to the development of moral and conceptual ideas underlying modern politics. Both classes examine some of the most important normative issues in the history of modern western political thought, and investigate how these questions frame most of today's political debates. Specifically, they trace the development of modern liberalism, the challenges to liberalism in the past three and a half centuries, and the roots of the contemporary traditions within modern liberal thought.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Midterm: (February 20th): 20%

NB: EXAM WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL EXIGENCY

Paper: (March 27th): 40% (see website for details)

Final exam: (scheduled exam period): 40%

*No alternative dates for exams will be set except for serious medical conditions. Exam dates are set well in advance: please keep them in mind when you make your travel arrangements

*No grades will be emailed to students. Grades for each assignment, as well as final grades, will be available on the class web site.

*Classroom attendance is expected. Lecture material will not be posted online.

*Always keep a saved file of your paper

Required Texts

1. For primary readings, the text is Stephen Cahn, ed. Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy, 2nd ed., also available for purchase from the university bookstore (this does not include the Montesquieu reading, which is available online)

2. The secondary text (David Boucher & Paul Kelly, eds. Political Thinkers) is available either for purchase through the university bookstore, or on 2-hour loan at the Killam library reserve readings desk.

Recommended Text

George Klosko, History of Political Theory, vol. II (available at Reserve Desk, Killam Library)

LECTURES

1. RIGHTS, REVOLUTION, AND DEMOCRACY

A. Text: Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (online) and Speech to the Electors of Bristol (Cahn, p. 1177)

Secondary text: Boucher & Kelly, ch.16.

Recommended: Klosko, chapter 23 (Burke)

B. Text: Thomas Paine, The Rights of Man (online)

C. Text: Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America

Vol. I: "Tyranny of the majority" and "Power exercised by the majority in America upon opinion"

Vol. II: "Why democratic nations show a more ardent and enduring love of quality"; "Relations of civil to political associations"; "How an aristocracy can be created by manufacturers"; "That the sentiments of democratic nations accord with their opinions in leading them to concentrate political power"; "What sort of despotism democratic nations have to fear"; "General survey of the subject," and "Education of young women in the United States".

(All online)

Secondary text: Boucher & Kelly, ch.20.

2. UTILITARIANISM AND LIBERALISM

A.Text: John Stuart Mill, selections from Utilitarianism, On Liberty, and The Subjection of Women

Secondary text: Boucher & Kelly, ch. 19, 21, and 22

Recommended: Klosko, chapter 8 (Utilitarian liberalism)

3. THE REACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUALISM

A. Text: G.W.F. Hegel, selections from Elements of the Philosophy of Right and The

Philosophy of History

Secondary text: Boucher & Kelly, ch. 24,

Recommended: Klosko, chapter 9 (Hegel)

B. Text: Karl Marx (and Friedrich Engels), selections from Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, The German Ideology, Communist Manifesto, The Critique of Political Economy, and Socialism: Utopian and Scientific

Secondary text: Boucher & Kelly, ch. 25 and 26.

Recommended: Klosko, chapter 10 (Marx)

4.RATIONALITY AND POWER

A. Text: Friedrich Nietzsche, selections from Human, All Too Human, Thus Spake Zarathustra, Beyond Good & Evil, The Genealogy of Morals, and Twilight of the Idols.

Secondary text: Boucher & Kelly, ch. 27.

Academic integrity

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at:

<http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>

Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

What does academic integrity mean?

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people's work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is.

Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student's responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met.

For more, consult the academic integrity website at:

<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>

For help writing papers, visit the writing centre at:

<http://writingcentre.dal.ca/>

Accommodation

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses).

Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate.

There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term.

If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.