

# **Pol. 202: Introduction to Political Philosophy II**

Summer 2008

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## **Description:**

The main objective of this course is to offer an introduction to the major themes and thinkers of modern political philosophy in the Western tradition. The course takes as its starting point Machiavelli's 'modern' break with the ancient and Christian traditions. The central focus of modern political thought will be presented as the twofold problematic of human freedom/autonomy and the question of political order/authority. What are the conditions and limitations of human freedom? Does state promote or hinder human freedom? What is the foundational principle of "legitimate government"? In a world increasingly dominated by industrialization, the advent of modern science/technology and the capitalist mode of production, what is the fate of human freedom? In the works of three great traditions, namely the Social Contract tradition (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau), Utilitarian tradition (Bentham, Mill) and the German Enlightenment tradition (Kant, Hegel, Marx), we shall seek answers to these questions.

The second part of this course will deal with contemporary philosophers who rethink the above-mentioned traditions in the light of late modern developments. Starting with Nietzsche's powerful rejection of the fundamental aspects of the Western philosophical tradition, this part will introduce the general problems addressed by the members of the Frankfurt School, as well as the recent debates centering on the philosophies of Foucault and Habermas.

## **Requirements:**

The grading will consist of a midterm (35% of total grade), a final exam (45%) and quizzes (20%). The midterm will take place in mid-July (between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>); while the final date will be announced. The exam format will be decided in class.

## **Academic Integrity:**

Please avoid cheating and plagiarism no matter what! There are clear rules and regulations of the University to punish offenders of academic honesty. It is quite possible that you may not know the appropriate rules of citation and quotation; please do not hesitate to ask me.

## **Course Schedule:**

June 23: Introduction to the Basic Themes of the Course

June 24, 25: Machiavelli and Modern Political Philosophy

Required:

Niccolo Machiavelli - *The Prince*

Niccolo Machiavelli – *Discourses on Livy* (Sections)

Recommended:

Antonio Gramsci – *The Modern Prince*

“The Founder” in Pitkin, Hanna Fenichel. *Fortune Is a Woman : Gender and Politics in the Thought of Niccolò Machiavelli*.

June 30: Hobbes and the Problem of Political Order

Required:

Thomas Hobbes – *The Leviathan* (Chapter 13 in Part I; and Part II)

Recommended:

C.B. Macpherson – *Political Theory of Possessive Individualism* (Chapter 2)

“Hobbes’s Political Theory” (Chapter 2) in Bobbio, Norberto. *Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law Tradition*.

July 1, 2: Locke’s Notion of “Consent”

Required:

John Locke – *Second Treatise of Government*

Recommended:

Chapter 2 and 5 in Dunn, John. *The Political Thought of John Locke: An Historical Account of the Argument of the 'Two Treatises of Government'*.

“Legitimate and Illegitimate Power: the Normative Theory” in Grant, Ruth Weissbourd. *John Locke's Liberalism*.

July 2, 7: Rousseau’s Social Contract

Required:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau – *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau - *Social Contract*

Recommended:

“Conclusion” in Riley, Patrick - *Will and Political Legitimacy : A Critical Exposition of Social Contract Theory in Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Hegel*.

July 8: Utilitarianism

Required:

Jeremy Bentham – *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation* (Chapters 1-7)

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (selected sections)

Recommended:

Hart, H. L. A. "Between Utility and Rights." *Columbia Law Review* 79, no. 5 (1979): 828-46.

“Synthesizing Rights and Utility” in Shapiro, Ian. *The Moral Foundations of Politics*

July 9, 14: Kant and the Foundations of Enlightenment

Required:

Immanuel Kant - "An Answer To The Question: What Is Enlightenment?"

Immanuel Kant - *Perpetual Peace*

Recommended:

Michel Foucault – “What is Enlightenment?”

July 14, 15: Hegel’s Philosophy of Right

Required:

GWF Hegel – *Philosophy of Right* (Selections from Part III: Ethical Life)

Recommended:

Shlomo Avineri – *Hegel’s Theory of the Modern State* (Chapter 9: “The State – The Consciousness of Freedom”)

Riedel, Manfred. *Between Tradition and Revolution : The Hegelian Transformation of Political Philosophy*. (Sections)

Taylor, Charles. *Hegel and Modern Society, Modern European Philosophy*. (Sections)

July 15, 16: the Marxist Critique of Capitalism

Required:

Karl Marx – *Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right*

Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels – *The Communist Manifesto*

Karl Marx – *Critique of the Gotha Program*

Recommended:

Zeynep Gambetti, "Hümanizm ve Marx", foreword to Miguel Abensour, *Devlete Karşı Demokrasi. Marx ve Makyavel Momenti (La Démocratie Contre L’Etat. Marx et le Moment Machiavellien)*, Epos Yayınları, Ankara, 2002.

July 21, 22: Nietzsche: Human Freedom Revisited

Required:

Friedrich Nietzsche – *Genealogy of Morals* (Part II)

Recommended:

“Nietzsche and the Recovery of Responsibility” in Honig, Bonnie. *Political Theory and the Displacement of Politics, Contestations*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1993.

July 22, 23: Panorama of the Frankfurt School

Required:

Adorno and Horkheimer – *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (“Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception”)

Herbert Marcuse – *One-Dimensional Man* (Chapter 10: “Conclusion”)

Recommended:

“Introduction” in Seyla Benhabib – *Critique, Norm, and Utopia : A Study of the Foundations of Critical Theory*.

July 28, 29: the Foucault-Habermas Debate

Required:

Jurgen Habermas – *Theory of Communicative Action* (Volume 1, selections from Part III)

Michel Foucault – “Governmentality”

Bent Flyvbjerg – “Habermas and Foucault: thinkers for civil society?”

Recommended:

Koray Caliskan – “Kapital ve Disiplin: Marx ve Foucault`da Tarihsel Ontoloji,” *Birikim*, Vol. 90, pp.10-20.

Ferda Keskin, “Özne ve İktidar”, *Özne ve İktidar*, Michel Foucault, Çev. Işık Ergüden/Osman Akınhay, Haz. Ferda Keskin, Seçme Yazılar 2, 1. Basım, Ayrıntı Yay., İstanbul 2000.

McCarthy, Thomas. "The Critique of Impure Reason: Foucault and the Frankfurt School." *Political Theory* 18, no. 3 (1990): 437-69.

July 30: Conclusion