We in the contemporary West tend to take liberal democratic principles and values almost for granted, but these principles and values have been subjected to a variety of radical critiques since their emergence in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In this course we will examine the theoretical foundations of liberalism (Locke) and radical critiques of both the left (Rousseau, Marx and Engels) and right (Rousseau again, Burke, Nietzsche). In addition to exploring the political implications of the various conceptions of nature, human nature, justice, freedom, and history found in the works of these thinkers, we will also use their arguments to reflect on the health or illness of contemporary liberal democratic theory and practice.

**Course Format and Requirements:**

By far the most important requirement of the course is that you complete all assigned readings carefully and before class. Most reading assignments will be relatively short, and you should do all of them more than once. My recommendation is to go over the readings relatively quickly once, to see what topics are covered and to pick out the main ideas, and then do them again, slowly and carefully, taking notes about what seems important or intriguing and about what you don’t fully understand. These notes will also help immensely in generating useful and stimulating class discussion.

The class will be conducted mostly in discussion format. I may have to lecture a bit on some days, but every class will involve a good deal of discussion, and you should plan on participating every day. High-level participation requires that you grapple with the central ideas and arguments of the readings ahead of time, and bring to class any questions or confusions you might have.

Attendance is required; more than two absences will affect your participation grade, and absence from more than a third of the classes will automatically result in a failing grade. Students arriving late will generally be counted as absent.

The written requirements include two papers (5-6 pages each), a final exam, and a handful of short writing exercises that will be incorporated into your participation grade.

The two papers will be analytical in nature and won’t require any research beyond the course readings; topics and guidelines will be handed out several classes in advance of the due date. Late papers will be penalized by 5 percentage points for each day they are late.

The final exam will be comprehensive and will consist of short-answer and essay questions. The exam must be taken on the date scheduled by the university.
All written assignments will be given a numerical grade on the following scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
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Grades will be determined as follows:

- Papers: 30% each
- Final exam: 30%
- Class participation: 10%

_The university’s policy on academic honesty will be strictly adhered to._ For more information on plagiarism and the proper citing of sources, see:

http://us.s.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/plagiarism.asp

**Required Texts:**


These books are available at the bookstore; please buy the editions and translations listed here. All other readings will be made available on Blackboard.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

1/21 Introduction

1/26 Declaration of Independence
   Stephen Holmes, selection from “The Liberal Idea” (pp. 13-17)

1/28 Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 1-4, 6 (section 54) (pp. 261-73, 287-88)

2/2 Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapter 5 (pp. 273-86)

2/4 Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6 (section 57), 7 (sections 87-94), 8 (sections 95-101, 113-122), 9 (pp. 288-89, 304-12, 319-27)
2/9  Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 10-14 (pp. 327-49)

2/11  Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapter 19 (sections 211-31, 240-43) (pp. 369-79, 386-87)


2/18  No class (Monday schedule)


2/25  Rousseau, *First Discourse* and “Preface to Narcissus” (pp. 2-28, 92-106)

3/2  Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Preface, first section of Part 1 and Notes 9, 16 (pp. 124-44, 197-204, 218-21)

3/4  Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, second section of Part 1 and Note 15 (pp. 144-60, 218)


First paper topics handed out

3/11  Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 3-31

3/12 and 3/15  Individual meetings with me about papers; bring thesis and/or outline (Friday and Monday)

Mark Twain, selection from *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*, pp. 292-94


3/19  First paper due by noon (Friday)

Spring Break

3/30  Burke, “Speech to the Electors of Bristol” and “Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies” (pp. 155-57, 259-73)

4/1  Marx, selections from “On the Jewish Question” (pp. 2-10, 14-21)

4/6  Marx, selections from *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* and *The German Ideology* (pp. 58-67, 107-12, 123-25, 129-31)

4/8  Marx and Engels, selections from *The Communist Manifesto* (pp. 158-76, 186)

4/13  Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program” (pp. 316-32)

Second paper topics handed out
4/15  Nietzsche, *Gay Science* #125 (pp. 95-96) and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “Prologue” part 5, “On the Thousand and One Goals” (pp. 128-31, 170-72)

4/20  Nietzsche, *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*, pp. 7-11, 14-25, 30-32

4/22  Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 9, #257-260 (pp. 201-8), *The Genealogy of Morals*, Part 1, #6, 10, 13, 16-17 (pp. 31-33, 36-39, 44-46, 52-55), and selection from *Ecce Homo* (pp. 782-83)

4/23  **Second paper due by noon**  
(Friday)

4/27  Nietzsche, *Gay Science* #343, 283, 341 (pp. 279-80, 228-29, 273-74) and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “The Convalescent” (pp. 327-33)

4/29  Stephen Holmes, “The Permanent Structure of Antiliberal Thought” (pp. 227-53)

5/13  **Final Exam, 12:00-2:00**  
(Thursday)