

Tufts University  
Spring 2017  
Mon/Wed, 3:00-4:15  
Lane Hall, Room 100

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Office hours: Mon/Wed, 4:15-5:15  
Packard Hall 109

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## **PS/Phil 42 – Western Political Thought II**

In this course we will examine some of the central thinkers and concepts of modern political thought, including the rejection of ancient political philosophy and Christianity and the rise of liberalism (Hobbes and Locke); the critique of the liberal outlook in the name of nature and virtue (Rousseau), tradition and custom (Burke), equality and liberation (Marx), and creativity and greatness (Nietzsche); and the attempt to rescue or recover liberal modernity in the face of some of these worries (Smith and Mill). In addition to exploring the various conceptions of nature, human nature, justice, freedom, history, and the good life found in the works of these thinkers, we will also use their arguments to reflect on the health or illness of liberal democracy in today's world.

### **Course Format and Requirements:**

By far the most important requirement of the course is that you complete all assigned readings *carefully* and *before class*. 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. To facilitate reading, I will hand out a list of study questions on each text; these questions can be used to guide your reading but are not exhaustive.

The class will be conducted in lecture-discussion format. That is, every class session will involve some lecturing but also some discussion and time for questions. In order to participate in these discussions and ask useful questions, you will need to grapple with the central ideas and arguments of the readings ahead of time. You should always bring the relevant text to class.

The use of laptops/tablets in class is permitted but discouraged. If you do use one, you may not use it for any purpose other than to look at the readings (when they are on Trunk) and to take notes: absolutely no email, Facebook, ESPN, etc. These non-class-related activities are disrespectful to me and your classmates and distracting for those sitting near you. I recommend disconnecting your computer from the internet during class to help avoid the temptation. You may not use your phone for any purpose during class time; if an emergency arises and you need to do so, please step out of the room first. If I see you using your computer for a non-class-related activity or your phone for any reason, I will lower your participation grade by 10 percentage points (each time).

Grades will be determined by a take-home midterm exam (due March 10), an in-class midterm exam (on April 5), and a take-home final exam (due May 8), as well as class participation. The

take-home exams will be essay style, and the in-class exam will consist of short answer and passage identification questions.

Class participation credit can be earned in three ways:

- 1) *Attendance*. Attendance at the lectures is mandatory, and I will periodically take attendance to enforce this. Students arriving after attendance has been taken will be counted as absent.
- 2) *Contribution to class discussions*. Those who ask or answer questions in class will be rewarded for doing so.
- 3) *Attendance and participation in discussion sessions*. In addition to the lectures, Will will hold six discussion/review sessions; see the schedule below. Participation in these sessions is voluntary but very highly encouraged.

Exams will be given a numerical grade on the following scale:

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	59 and below

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm exams	30 % each
Final exam	35 %
Class participation	5 %

*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://students.tufts.edu/academic-advice-and-support/academic-resource-center/what-we-offer/writing-support/avoiding>

### **Required Texts:**

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley (Hackett, 1994). ISBN: 9780872201774.

John Locke, *Political Writings*, ed. David Wootton (Hackett, 2003). ISBN: 9780872206762.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*, ed. John T. Scott (University of Chicago Press, 2012). ISBN: 9780226151311.

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, ed. A. L. Macfie and D. D. Raphael (Liberty Fund, 1982). ISBN: 9780865970120.

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, ed. R. H. Campbell and A. S. Skinner (Liberty Fund, 1981). Two volumes. ISBN: 9780865970083.

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, ed. J. G. A. Pocock (Hackett, 1987). ISBN: 9780872200203.

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, ed. Elizabeth Rapaport (Hackett, 1978). ISBN: 9780915144433.

Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, ed. Lawrence H. Simon (Hackett, 1994). ISBN: 9780872202184.

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

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

1/23 Introduction: The Ancients and the Moderns

1/25 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, introduction, chapters 6 (paragraphs 1-7, 49-58), 11 (paragraphs 1-2), 13-15 (pp. 3-5, 27-9, 33-5, 57-8, 74-100)

1/30 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 17-18, 19 (paragraphs 1-7), 20 (paragraphs 1-3, 18-19), 21, 29 (paragraphs 1-14), 30 (paragraphs 20-1), 31 (paragraph 41) (pp. 106-21, 127-8, 135-45, 210-15, 229, 243-4)

2/1 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 1-5, 6 (section 54) (pp. 261-86, 287-8)

2/6 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6 (section 57), 7 (sections 87-94), 8 (sections 95-101, 113-22), 9 (pp. 288-9, 304-12, 319-27)  
David Hume, selection from "Of the Original Contract" (Trunk, pp. 465-77)

2/8 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 10-14, 19 (sections 211-31, 240-3) (pp. 327-49, 369-79, 386-7)  
American Declaration of Independence (Trunk, pp. 495-8)

### **Discussion section on Hobbes/Locke, 6-7 pm, Crane Room (Paige Hall)**

2/13 John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (pp. 390-433)

2/15 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, Preface, Part 1, and Notes 9, 15-16 (pp. 38-9, 51-90, 127-33, 147-9)

2/20 No class – Presidents Day

2/22 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, Part 2 (pp. 91-117)

2/23 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 1, Book 2 (chapters 1-6), and Book 4 (chapters 1-2) (pp. 153-90, 243-7)  
(Monday schedule)

2/27 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 2 (chapters 7-12), Book 3 (chapter 15), and Book 4 (chapter 8) (pp. 190-203, 234-7, 263-72)

**Discussion section on Locke/Rousseau, 6-7 pm, Crane Room (Paige Hall)**

3/1 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 9-19, 67-71, 78-85, 109-19, 134-8, 156-61, 200-211

(Make sure you're reading the text and not the editors' introduction.)

**Take-home midterm exam distributed in class**

3/6 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 50-3, 61-6, 149-51, 179-87, 212-17, 231-4

3/8 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 10-30, 341-6, 452-6, 687-8, 723-31, 781-97, 814-16

(Again, make sure you're reading the text and not the editors' introduction.)

3/10 **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE by noon (in my box in Packard Hall)**  
(Friday)

3/13 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 689-701, 706-23, 381-90, 397-405, 411-22

3/14 **Discussion section on Smith, 6-7 pm, Crane Room (Paige Hall)**  
(Tuesday)

3/15 Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 3-35, 43-55, 62-70

Spring Break

3/27 Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 75-87, 108-12, 216-18, "Speech to the Electors of Bristol" (Trunk, pp. 155-7), and "Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies" (Trunk, pp. 259-73)

3/29 John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-52)

4/3 John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 3-5 (pp. 53-113)

**Midterm exam review session, 6-7 pm, Crane Room (Paige Hall)**

4/5 **IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM**

4/10 Karl Marx, selections from "On the Jewish Question" (pp. 2-10, 14-21), *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (pp. 58-67), and *The German Ideology* (pp. 107-12, 123-5, 129-31)

4/12 Karl Marx, selections from *The Communist Manifesto* (pp. 158-76) and "Critique of the Gotha Program" (pp. 318-22, 327-32)

4/13 **Discussion section on Burke/Mill/Marx, 6-7 pm, Crane Room (Paige Hall)**  
(Thursday)

4/17 No class – Patriots Day

4/19 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science* #125 (pp. 95-6) and *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*, pp. 7-11, 14-25, 30-32

4/24 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “Prologue” part 5 (pp. 128-31), *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 9, #257-260 (pp. 201-8), and *The Genealogy of Morals*, Part 1, #6, 10, 13, 16-17 (pp. 31-3, 36-9, 44-6, 52-5)

4/26 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science* #343, 283, 341 (pp. 279-80, 228-9, 273-4), *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “The Convalescent” (pp. 327-33), and selection from *Ecce Homo* (pp. 326-7)

**Discussion section on Nietzsche, 6-7 pm, Crane Room (Paige Hall)**

5/1 Leo Strauss, “The Three Waves of Modernity” (Trunk, pp. 81-98)  
**Take-home final exam distributed in class**

5/8 **FINAL EXAM DUE by noon (in my box in Packard Hall)**