

Political Science 300
Professor Brian J. Shaw

Modern Political Philosophy
Fall Semester 2005

Office: Chambers 3014
Hours: MWF, 2:30-3:30; TuTh 4:00-5:00, and by appointment
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Texts:

Thomas More, Utopia (Harlan Davidson)
Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince (Bantam)
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Collier)
John Locke, Second Treatise of Civil Government (Hackett)
Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations (Modern Library)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Essential Rousseau (NAL)

Goals of the Course:

The course offers a survey of the thought of some major political philosophers of the Renaissance, the 17th century and the Enlightenment. What makes these three centuries so significant is the deliberate rejection of the traditional concerns of ancient and medieval political philosophy and their replacement by distinctively modern understandings of society, justice and the good life. Modern political theory begins with the writings of Machiavelli and More and finds exemplary expression in the classical liberal thought of Hobbes, Locke and Smith, and in Rousseau's radical democratism.

The intention of the course is twofold: 1) to familiarize students with the intellectual inheritance of contemporary liberal societies; and 2) to engage them in the controversies which modern theory has raised but which remain as yet unresolved. There are no prerequisites for the course; it assumes no prior knowledge of these or other particular course materials.

Examinations:

The evaluation of each student's comprehension of the course materials will consist primarily of three open-book, take-home reviews. The first will be handed out Monday, September 12, and returned by noon on Monday, September 19. The second will be handed out Friday, October 21 and returned by noon on Friday, October 28. The final review will be handed out Monday, November 28 and returned by noon, Wednesday, December 7. There is no class on the days reviews are due.

All reviews will be typed. Late reviews will be penalized one letter grade for each class day they are late, save for final reviews, which will be penalized one letter grade for each calendar day they are late.

In addition to these three assignments, a significant portion of each student's course grade shall be determined by his or her participation in class discussion. The weight of each requirement is as follows:

First Review: 25%
Second Review: 30%
Final Review: 35%
Class Discussion: 10%

Class Participation:

The course is structured primarily about the discussion of the assigned texts. It is accordingly extremely important that students have familiarized themselves with the readings before each meeting. It is also important that students conscientiously attend class. Students are allowed 3 unexcused cuts; absences in excess of this number will result in a grade of "F" for class discussion.

Final Note:

While this course is not cumulative in the usual sense, it is indeed developmental, and the written examinations and discussions will reflect this. It is thus important that the student make every effort to keep abreast of the schedule of readings. It is very difficult to assimilate this material in an "cram course" fashion.

- I. More and Machiavelli: The Awakening of Modern Thought
- II. Hobbes and Locke: Liberal Social Contract Theory
- III. Smith and Rousseau: The Limits of Liberalism

All provisions of the DAVIDSON HONOR CODE are in effect for this course, and all written work shall be pledged in accordance with it. Unpledged reviews will not be accepted and Honor Code violations will be vigorously prosecuted. Students uncertain about the terms and requirements of the Code should request clarification from the instructor. Any Honor Code violations will be vigorously prosecuted.

Schedule of Readings:

There are a number of introductory histories of modern political philosophy that you might wish to consult from time to time during the term. Among these I especially recommend the following:

- T. Ball, Reappraising Political Theory
- W. Bluhm, Theories of the Political System
- J. Bronowski and B. Mazlish, The Western Intellectual Tradition
- F. Baumer, Modern European Thought
- D. Germino, From Machiavelli to Marx
- J. Hampton, Political Philosophy
- B. Nelson, Western Political Thought
- J. Plamenatz, Man and Society
- G. Sabine, A History of Political Theory
- L. Strauss, A History of Political Philosophy
- E. Voegelin, From Enlightenment to Revolution
- J. Wiser, Political Philosophy: The Search for Order
- S. Wolin, Politics and Vision

Students might find useful as well reading in some of the better secondary works devoted to each of the authors we will study. A list of some of these recommended readings follows each section's reading assignment.

- I-A. Introduction and Welcome: (August 22)
Required Reading: Begin More's Utopia.

Shaw, Page Three

I-B. Thomas More: From Medieval to Modern (August 24-September 2)

Required Reading: Utopia (all)

Recommended: R. Ames, Citizen Thomas More and Utopia

- A. Fox, Thomas More, History and Providence
- J. Hexter, More's Utopia: The Biography of an Idea
- J. Hexter, The Vision of Politics on the Eve of the Reformation
- R. Johnson, More's Utopia: Ideal and Illusion
- K. Kautsky, Thomas More and His Utopia
- T. Maynard, Humanist as Hero: The Life of Sir Thomas More
- R. Sylvester, Essential Articles for the Study of Thomas More
- L. Tigar, Law and the Rise of Capitalism

I-C. Machiavelli (September 5-16)

Required Reading: The Prince (all)

Recommended: H. Butterfield, The Statecraft of Machiavelli

- M. Fleisher (ed) Machiavelli and the Nature of Political Thought
- A. Gilbert, Machiavelli's Prince and Its Forerunners
- F. Chabod, Machiavelli and the Renaissance
- S. de Grazia, Machiavelli in Hell
- J. Hale, Machiavelli and Renaissance Italy
- F. Meinecke, Machiavellianism
- R. Roeder, The Man of the Renaissance
- Q. Skinner, The Foundations of Modern Political Thought, Vol. I.
- L. Strauss, Thoughts on Machiavelli

FIRST REVIEW DUE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 (No Class)

II-A. Thomas Hobbes (September 21-October 7)

Required Reading: Leviathan (selections TBA)

Recommended: J. Bowle, Hobbes and His Critics

- M. Goldsmith, Hobbes' Science of Politics
- J. Habermas, Theory and Practice
- M. Horkheimer, Les debuts de la philosophie
bourgeoise de l'histoire
- J. Kemp, Ethical Naturalism
- F. Hood, The Divine Politics of Thomas Hobbes
- C. Macpherson, The Political Theory of
Possessive Individualism
- R. Peters, Hobbes
- L. Strauss, The Political Philosophy of Hobbes
- J. Watkins, Hobbes' System of Ideas

FALL BREAK (October 10 and 11)

II-B. John Locke (October 12-26)

Required Reading: Second Treatise (all)
Shaw, Page Four

Recommended: R. Aaron, John Locke
M. Cranston, John Locke: A Biography
G. Gooch, English Democratic Ideas in the 17th Century
J. Gough, John Locke's Political Philosophy
H. Laski, The Rise of Liberalism
C. Macpherson, The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism
L. Strauss, Natural Right and History

SECOND REVIEW DUE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 28

III-A. Adam Smith (October 31 - November 11)

Required Reading: Wealth of Nations (selections TBA)

Recommended: R. Anchor, The Enlightenment Tradition

C. Becker, The Heavenly City of the 18th Century Philosophers
L. Colletti, From Rousseau to Lenin
P. Gay, The Enlightenment, Vol. II.
P. Hazard, European Thought in the 18th Century
R. Heilbroner, The Worldly Philosophers
The Nature and Logic of Capitalism
H. Laski, The Rise of Liberalism
M. Polanyi, The Great Transformation
D. Sidorsky, The Liberal Tradition in European
Thought
B. Willey, The 18th Century Background

III-B. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (November 14-December 5)

Required Reading: Discourse on Inequality (all)
Social Contract (all)

Recommended: E. Cassirer, The Question of Jean Jacques Rousseau
Rousseau, Goethe, Kant

A. Cobban, Rousseau and the Modern State
L. Colletti, From Rousseau to Lenin
M. Cranston, Jean-Jacques Rousseau (3 Vols.)
L. Crocker, Rousseau's Social Contract
M. Einaudi, The Early Rousseau
R. Grimsley, The Philosophy of Rousseau
C. Hendel, Jean Jacques Rousseau
R. Masters, The Political Philosophy of Rousseau
J. Shklar, Men and Citizens
J. Talmon, The Origins of Totalitarian Democracy
C. Vaughan, The Political Writings of Rousseau

FINAL REVIEW DUE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 (12:00 noon)