

Political Science 102
Spring 2006
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CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Texts to be Purchased:

John Locke, Two Treatises of Government, ed. P. Laslett (Cambridge).
Hamilton, Madison, Jay, The Federalist Papers, ed. C. Kesler (Mentor).
Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, trans. H. Mansfield and D. Winthrop (Chicago).
Carl Cohen, Communism, Fascism, and Democracy, 3rd Edition (McGraw-Hill).
Friedrich Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, trans. W. Kaufmann (Vintage Books).
Nahid Rachlin, Foreigner (Norton).
Sayyid Qutb, Milestones (American Trust).
Leo Strauss, Natural Right and History (Chicago).
Green packet of course readings (to be handed out in class).

Goals of the Course:

The goal of this course is to understand as clearly as we can the fundamental alternative political ideologies or theories which have shaped our world and to consider which political theories may shape our world in the future. As we investigate the theories at the foundation of liberal democracy, capitalism, Marxism, fascism, National Socialism, and political Islam, we will consider how each of them addresses the most fundamental human questions: What is the best and most just form of political society and government? What is the best way of life for human beings? What is the nature of human beings? And, in order to think about these political theories fairly and for ourselves, we will attempt to identify and to examine the most powerful arguments for and also against each of these theories.

Requirements:

There will be two 5-7 page papers (worth 25% each), an in-class mid-term exam (worth 20%), and a final (self-scheduled) exam (worth 25%). You must do all of the written work in order to pass the course. You will be docked a half of a grade (for example, from A to A-) on a paper which you hand in late unless you either have asked for (and received) my permission beforehand or have a very good excuse. Roughly 5% of your grade will be determined by class participation and class attendance. You will be expected to read the assigned texts carefully before we discuss them in class. Regular and punctual attendance is expected.

Assignments:

January 10 Introduction

I. Liberal Democracy

- January 12 Fukuyama, The End of History?;
Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”;
Declaration of Independence (final version only) (course readings);
Locke, First Treatise of Government, Title Page, etc. (pp. 135-140),
chapter 1, chapter 6 (paragraph 58), and Second Treatise
of Government, chapter 1.
- January 17 Locke, chapters 2-4.
- January 19 Locke, chapters 5, 6 (paragraphs 52-54), 7 (paragraphs 87-94), 8 (paragraphs 95-99),
9.
- January 24 Locke, chapters 10-11, 19.
- January 26 Declaration of Independence Final and Original Versions;
Letter of Patrick Henry, 18 Jan. 1773;
Letter of Timothy Pickering, 6 Mar. 1785 (course readings)
- January 31 Constitution (542-560 in Kesler) and Federalist Papers, nos. 1, 9, 10, and 39.
- February 2 Federalist Papers, nos. 47-48, 51, and 55.
- February 7 Federalist Papers, nos. 63, 69-72, and 78.
- February 9 Lincoln, Speech to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield (course readings).
- February 14 Lincoln, Speech to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield; Gettysburg Address
(course readings).
- February 16 Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Vol. I., Author's Introduction;
Part I, chapters 3-4; Part II, chapters 4, 7, 8.

- February 21 Tocqueville, Vol. II, Part I, chapters 1-2, 10; Part II, chaps. 1-7.
1ST PAPER DUE
- February 23 Tocqueville, Vol. II, Part III, chapters 8-9, 12; Part II, chapters 10-13, 15; Part IV, chapters 1-3, 6-8.

II. Capitalism

- March 7 Smith, The Wealth of Nations (course readings);
Tocqueville, Vol. II, Part II, chap. 20.

III. Marxism

- March 9 Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto, pp. 76-92 in Cohen.
- March 14 Lenin, State and Revolution, pp. 147-151, 122-23, 176-186 in Cohen.
- March 16 Lenin, conclusion.
- March 21 MID-TERM.

IV. Postmodernism, Fascism, and National Socialism

- March 23 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, Preface, Aphorisms 1, 5, 9, and 186-188.
- March 28 Nietzsche, Aphorisms 197-203, 212-13, 251-53, 257-263.
Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, sections 1-5 of Prologue (course readings).
- March 30 NO CLASS
- April 4 Rocco, The Political Doctrine of Fascism, pp. 273-75, 279-289;
Mussolini, The Doctrine of Fascism, pp. 289-299;
Gentile, The Philosophic Basis of Fascism, pp. 299-303;
Palmieri, The Philosophy of Fascism, pp. 252-56, 303-314; in Cohen.
- April 6 Hitler, pp. 327-342 in Cohen.

V. Political Islam

- April 11 Rachlin, Foreigner.
- April 13 Ayatollah Khomeini, Message to Pilgrims (3/25/79), New Year's Message,
Message to Pilgrims (9/13/80)(course readings);
Qutb, Milestones, pp. 5-10, 37-90.

April 20 Qutb, Milestones, pp. 91-9, 111-138.

April 25 Soroush, “The Idea of Democratic Religious Government” (pp. 122-30);
“Tolerance and Governance” (pp. 131-55, 213-9) in course readings.
2ND PAPER DUE

VI. Liberal Democracy, Relativism, and Religion

April 27 Strauss, Natural Right and History, pp. 1-10, 31-6, 70-80, 165-6, 234-51.

May 2 Overview.