

Political Science 393 – History of Political Thought III: Liberty, Democracy, and Revolution

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How, if at all, should the political institutions of the modern state express and secure the *liberty* and *equality* of citizens? What is the political significance of private *property*? Is world *history* to be understood as *progress* towards one best form of government – capitalist democracy, perhaps, or communism? What forces drive history? We shall address these and other timeless political questions through close reading and rigorous analysis of classic texts in the history of Western political thought. Authors to be studied will include Kant, Hegel, Marx, Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill, and Nietzsche. Prerequisite: one previous course in political theory or political philosophy. Note: students are encouraged but not required to take history of political thought courses in chronological sequence.

Required Texts (* indicates also available on 2-hr reserve in Olin Library)

Alexander Hamilton, et. al., The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers (Hackett)

Immanuel Kant, Perpetual Peace and Other Essays (Hackett; tr. Ted Humphrey)

* G. W. F. Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right (Cambridge; ed. Allen Wood)

* Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Marx-Engels Reader, 2nd ed. (Norton; ed. Robert Tucker)

* Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (Harper Perennial; tr. George Lawrence)

* John Stuart Mill, On Liberty and other writings (Cambridge; ed. Stefan Collini)

* Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality (Hackett; tr. Maudemarie Clark & Alan Swenson)

All **other readings** are available through the Olin Library's *Ares* system.

Assignments

Students are expected to:

- i) complete each session's assigned readings before coming to class
- ii) write at least three 6-page papers on topics chosen by the student from lists provided by the instructor
 - Each student will choose at least three of the following paper assignments:
 - Paper 1: Revolutions and Constitutions (due Feb 11)
 - Paper 2: Kant/Hegel (due Mar 4)
 - Paper 3: Marx (due Mar 25)
 - Paper 4: Tocqueville (due Apr 15)
 - Paper 5: Mill (due Apr 29)
- iii) take a final, written examination in May

Class Meetings

1. Introduction

Tuesday, Jan 19 No readings

2 – 5. Revolutions and Constitutions

Thursday, Jan 21 Locke, Second Treatise of Government: chs. 18-19 (pp. 101-124)
Hamilton, et al., The Federalist: 1, 47, 48, 49, 51, 78, 85 (pp. 140-143,
231-250, 283-289, 310-316)

Tuesday, Jan 26 Hamilton, et al., The Federalist: 2, 10, 84 (pp. 143-147, 167-174,
301-310)
Constant, “The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the
Moderns” (pp. 309-328)

Thursday, Jan 28 Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France: pp. 4-8, 12-45, 67-68,
73-79, 84-92, 110-112, 144-151

Tuesday, Feb 2 Paine, “Common Sense” (pp. 5-33) and “The Rights of Man”:
pp. 59-72, 78-79, 86-103
[*Paper 1 topics distributed*]

6 – 16. History and Property

Thursday, Feb 4 Kant, “Idea for a Universal History”; “What is Enlightenment?”
(pp. 29-48)

Tuesday, Feb 9 Kant, “To Perpetual Peace” (pp. 107-143)

Thursday, Feb 11 Hegel, Philosophy of History: Introduction, pp. 1-43 & pp. 103-110
[*Paper 1 due*]

Tuesday, Feb 16 Hegel, Philosophy of Right: Part I: Abstract Right, pp. 67-103

Thursday, Feb 18 Hegel, Philosophy of Right: Part III, Sec. 2: Civil Society, pp. 220-274

Tuesday, Feb 23 Hegel, Philosophy of Right: Part III, Sec. 3: The State, pp. 275-328
[*Paper 2 topics distributed*]

Thursday, Feb 25 Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844”: pp. 70-105

Tuesday, Mar 2 Marx, “The German Ideology” (pp. 147 – 200); “Capital”: pp. 299-302

Thursday, Mar 4 Marx, “Capital”: pp. 302-308, 336-361, 390-403, 422-431, 439-441
[*Paper 2 due*]

SPRING BREAK – no class on Mar 9 or 11

Tuesday, Mar 16 Marx, “The Communist Manifesto” (pp. 469-500); “Critique of the Gotha Program”: pp. 529-531
[Paper 3 topics distributed]

Thursday, Mar 18 Review - No new readings

17 – 24. Democracy, Equality, and Liberty

Tuesday, Mar 23 Tocqueville, Democracy in America: pp. 9-20, 31-70, 87-98

Thursday, Mar 25 NO CLASS
[Paper 3 due in Seigle 207 by 10am]

Tuesday, Mar 30 Tocqueville, Democracy in America: pp. 180-199, 231-276

Thursday, Apr 1 Tocqueville, Democracy in America: pp. 286-315, 417-418, 433-436, 442-449, 503-524

Tuesday, Apr 6 Tocqueville, Democracy in America: pp. 525-534, 535-549, 555-558, 572-584, 590-594, 600-603, 634-645, 667-681, 690-705
[Paper 4 topics distributed]

Thursday, Apr 8 J. S. Mill, “On Liberty,” chs. 1-2 (pp. 5-55)

Tuesday, Apr 13 J. S. Mill, “On Liberty,” chs. 3-4 (pp. 56-93); ch. 5 (pp. 94-115)
recommended but not required

Thursday, Apr 15 J. S. Mill, “On the Subjection of Women”: pp. 132-145, 159-174, 182-217
[Paper 4 due]

Tuesday, Apr 20 J. S. Mill, “Considerations on Representative Government”: chs. 7, 8, 10
[Paper 5 topics distributed]

25 - 26. Nietzsche

Thursday, Apr 22 Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality: Preface & 1st Treatise (pp. 1-33);
Beyond Good and Evil: secs. 44, 186, 187, 201-202, 260

Tuesday, Apr 27 Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality: 2nd Treatise (pp. 35-66);
Beyond Good and Evil: secs. 199, 225, 257-259

27. Review and Conclusions

Thursday, Apr 29 No new readings
[Paper 5 due]

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 11, 6.00 – 8.00pm

Grading

Performance on the final examination will count for **40%** of your course grade. Papers count for **60%** of your course grade. Each paper that you write is weighted equally. [Therefore, if you write the minimum number of papers (three), each will count for 20% of your grade. If you write four papers, each will count for 15% of your grade. If you write the maximum number of papers (five), each will count for 12% of your grade.]

Students who elect to take this course under the credit/no-credit or pass/fail grading options will have their assignments graded in the normal fashion. At the end of the semester, students whose performance on these assignments would have earned them a course grade of C+ or above will receive a pass (or credit); students who would have earned a course grade of C or below will receive a fail (or no credit).

Policies

Secondary Literature and Academic Integrity: All work presented as original must, in fact, be original, and the ideas and contributions of others must always be appropriately acknowledged. The use of secondary literature to complete assignments is neither required nor especially encouraged: in your reading, I would like you to concentrate on seeing these great texts with your own eyes, rather than through the eyes of interpreters. If you do read secondary literature, remember to acknowledge not only quotations but also any other use of the ideas of others, including summaries and paraphrases. Any violations of these principles of academic integrity will be referred to the College of Arts and Sciences' Academic Integrity Officer, Dean Dirk Killen. Penalties for such violations can be severe and enduring.

Attendance: You are strongly encouraged to attend all class meetings, but there is no formal attendance requirement for non-auditors. Your course grade is determined only by your performance on the assignments listed above.

Auditor requirements: Students that wish to audit the course may, but are not required to, complete written assignments and the final examination. Auditors are expected to complete all assigned readings and to miss no more than four class meetings.

Deadlines, Extensions, Incompletes: Papers must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the day indicated for the topic chosen. Deadline extensions and grades of "incomplete" will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Requests for an extension must be emailed to Prof. MacMullen by 12 noon on the day before the deadline. Requests for a grade of incomplete must be emailed to Prof. MacMullen by 12 noon on the day before the final exam.

Late Papers: There will be a penalty of 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours or part thereof that a paper is late without an extension having been granted. Such papers must be delivered to Prof. MacMullen in his Seigle Hall mailbox on paper; no email submissions will be accepted. You must clearly write on any late paper the exact day and time at which it was submitted.