

Political Science 7114
Graduate Seminar in Political Theory
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Course Description

This seminar introduces graduate students to some central authors, texts, and problems in the history of political philosophy. Using recent commentaries and critical essays, it also introduces some of the methods of contemporary political theory. The seminar covers a relatively small number of authors and texts in order to consider them in greater depth.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to give short presentations and lead discussion of reading assignments on a weekly basis.

Each student also is required to write a research paper, approx. 8000 words (no less than 6,000 no more than 10,000, not counting endnotes). This is a pretty standard length for a journal article. You are required to discuss your paper topic with me before beginning. The final paper should be analytic in character, not requiring outside research, although such research is not prohibited. The paper can discuss one author on a particular theme or compare authors, but it has to be related to one or more of the texts in the course. The paper should be typed, double-spaced and follow one of the standard manuals of style. I would like both hard and electronic copies, due on the last day of class.

The paper counts for two thirds of the grade; participation one third. Participation grade is based on active and helpful class discussion showing evidence of careful preparation. In a seminar of this size it is apparent if you have done the all of the reading and have thought carefully about it.

Disabilities

Students sometimes do not reveal disabilities because of previous stigmatizing experience combined with a desire to make it on their own. While the desire is laudable, you should take every accommodation to which you are entitled. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Religious Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students are required to let me know **within the first two weeks** of the course if they want an

accommodation. For details of campus policy see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Classroom Decorum

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Honor Code

All students at the University of Colorado, Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

Sexual Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the CU policy on Sexual Harassment, and the CU policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, faculty and staff. Any student, faculty or staff member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odu>

Required Readings

Note: You may have already some of the books listed for the course. It would be helpful for you to use the particular editions listed below, so that we literally are on the same page during class discussion, but for the most part I don't care a great deal if you use

other editions, and there are even some good ones online (some links below in the reading schedule). Whatever edition of *Leviathan* you use, I strongly suggest looking for modernized spelling and punctuation, as in the Curley edition. Although I've ordered most of the books from the CU bookstore, I haven't ordered all of them, especially *On the Edge of Anarchy*, because I think you would do better to get that book and perhaps the others on-line at a cheaper price. The Liberty Fund edition of *Rationalism in Politics* includes essays that I will also put on line.

Books

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett), ed., Curley
 Richard Tuck, *Hobbes: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford)
 Locke, *Second Treatise* (Hackett)
 Burke, *The Portable Burke* (Viking Portable Library)
 Thomas Paine (The Rights of Man)
 A. John Simmons, *On the Edge of Anarchy* (Princeton)-- you will have to scrounge
 Rousseau, *Second Discourse* and *Social Contract* (I've ordered a *Basic Writings*)
 Joshua Cohen, *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals*
 Axel Honneth, *The Struggle for Recognition*
 William Connolly, *Identity/Difference*
 Michael Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics*, Liberty Fund edition

Articles

The reading schedule below directs you to additional articles, chapters, and excerpts on line. Check D2L for this course; if you can't find it there, you'll have to look for it on your own. Usually it is easy to find on JSTOR or elsewhere on the web. I'll be adding to D2L as we go.

Reading Schedule: assignments and dates may change during the semester.

Aug. 31

Introduction

September 7

Hobbes: Epistemology, Science and the State of Nature

Richard Tuck, *Hobbes: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2002), 1 -74

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed., Edwin Curley (Hackett, 1994) -- "Introduction" (by Hobbes, not Curley (although Curley also would be useful), Chapters: 1, 4-7, 11, 13-15

Text of *Leviathan* available two other places on the web:

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com> (this site has texts of Locke's *Second Treatise* and Mill's *On Liberty* as well)

Sept. 14

Hobbes: the Absolute State

Tuck, *Hobbes*, 74 – 140

Leviathan-- Chapters 16-19; 21; 28, first two paragraphs; 29; 30, first four paragraphs; 31, last paragraph

Suggested: essays on Hobbes by Kavka, Goldsmith, Hampton and Gauthier in *The Social Contract Theorists*, ed. Christopher Morris (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999). On D2L

Sept. 21

The Lockean State of Nature, Consent and Government

Locke, *Second Treatise*, sections 4-24, 52-71, 77 - 91, 95-99, 117-122, 123-131 (in other words, skip the sections on property and stop at Chapter XI)

Simmons, *The Edge of Anarchy*, 3-99

Suggested:

We are skipping Locke on property, sections 25 -51. For those interested, here are three suggestions, which should be enough for comps. Cohen is for those who want to go further, especially those interested in Marxism and/or socialism.

Robert Nozick's, *Anarchy, State, Utopia*, Part II

Simmons, *The Lockean Theory of Rights*, Chapter 8 on property rights

Gopal Sreenivasen, *The Limits of Lockean Rights in Property*

G.A. Cohen, *Self-Ownership, Freedom and Equality*

Sept. 28

The Limits of Lockean Political Society

Second Treatise, sections 132-149, 159-160, 167 – 174, 182, 196, 211-212, 220-228, 240-43. (27 pages)

Edge of Anarchy, 147 – 271 (95 pages)

Simmons, "Justification and Legitimacy," in book by same name, pp. 122 -157 (35 pages) Will be on D2L

Suggested:

H.L.A. Hart, "Are There Any Natural Rights"
 Charles Beitz, "Tacit Consent and Property Rights"
 George Klosko, "Fixed Content of Political Obligation,"
 These are on D2L Klosko under "Mapel-Klosko"

George Klosko, *Political Obligation and the Principle of Fairness*
 Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligation and Justification and Legitimacy*

October 5

Rousseau^[1]_[SEP]

Discourse on Inequality, pp.

Judith Shklar, "Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Equality," in Alan Ritter and Julia Conaway Bondanella (eds.), *Rousseau's Political Writings* (Norton, 1988), 260 – 74 (14 pages_on D2L)

The Social Contract, Books 1 and 2, pp.

Cohen, *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals*, chapters 1 pp. 10 – 22 and chapter 3, pp. 97 - 131

October 12

Rousseau

The Social Contract, Book 3, chapters 1-6, 10-18; Book 4, (chapters 4 and 5 optional).

Cohen, *Rousseau*, chapters 2, 3, 5 (120 pages)

Suggested:

Robert Paul Wolff, "Rousseau's Majoritarian Democracy," in *Rousseau's Political Writings*, 274 -81

John Charvet, "Rousseau, the Problem of Sovereignty, and the Limits of Political Obligation," in *The Social Contract Theorists*, ed. Christopher Morris (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999), 205 -218

Wolff and Charvet on D2L

Arthur Ripstein, "The General Will," in *The Social Contract Theorists*, 219 -237

Jean Starobinski, "The Political Thought of Rousseau" in *Rousseau's Political Writings*, 221 -232

October 19

Edmund Burke: Representation, America, India

(all Burke selections in *The Portable Burke*, ed. Kramnick)

David Bromwich, *Edmund Burke: An Intellectual Biography*, vol. 1, chapter 1 (Belknap Press: Harvard, 2017), 26 pages, to come on D2L—preferable to Kramnick's intro

"To the Duke of Richmond" (1772, Burke's ideal of aristocracy) pp. 533 -4 (1 ½ pages)

Speech at Mr. Burke's Arrival in Bristol, in *Portable Burke* (1774), p. 155 – 8 (3 pages)

Hannah Pitkin, *The Concept of Representation* (U Cal Press, 1967), Chapter 8, "Representing Unattached Interests: Burke", pp. 168 – 189 (19 pages) to come on D2L

Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies (1774, in support of America) pp. 259 – 274 (14 pages)

"The Debate Over America," in Robert Tucker and David Hendrickson, *Fall of the First British Empire*, last chapter, on D2L as "Debate"—two political scientists/historians take issue with Burke's argument for conciliation with the colonies. 31 pages, On D2L

Speech on Mr. Fox's East India Bill (1783 attack on the East India company), pp. pp. 363 – 377 (14 pages)

October 26

Burke: the French Revolution.

J.G.A. Pocock, "Editor's Introduction," *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, D2L (pp. 7 – 47, essential reading, 40 pages on D2L

Burke, excerpts *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790), *Portable Burke* p. 416 – 474 (58 pages)

Burke, "An Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs," (1791) *Portable Burke*, 474 – 94 (20 pages)

Suggested:

Leo Strauss, “Burke” in *Natural Right and History*, 294 – 323. Some interesting contrasts between Aristotelian and Burkean notions of prudence

J.G.A. Pocock, “Burke and the Ancient Constitution: A Problem in the History of Ideas,” in Pocock, *Politics, Language and Time*, D2L, pp. 203 – 33 (30 pages) on D2L

“Thoughts on the Present Discontents,” (1770, Burke attacks the “cabal” of George III and defends the idea of political party), read second half, 142 – 50

“To William Burgh, Esq.” (1774) (religious toleration) pp. 534 -6

Speeches on Impeachment of Warren Hastings (1778, 94, on the Director of the East India Co. abuses)

Letter to Richard Burke,” (1792, religious toleration_ pp. 348 – 356

Letter to a Noble Lord (1795), slashing attack on an aristocrat, some of Burke’s best invective against the French Revolution), pp. 213 – 229, see 224 -9 for the invective.

Letters on a Regicide Peace (1795, Burke off the deep end), pp. 517 – 30

Read the Kramnick Intro to the *Portable Burke* for the difference between a very able commentator (Kramnick) and one who redefines the field (Pocock).

November 2

Michael Oakeshott

Essays in *Rationalism in Politics*

“Political Education,” 43 – 70

“Rational Conduct,” 99 – 132

“On Being a Conservative,” 407 - 438

November 9

Connolly, *Identity/Difference*, 1 - 94

November 16

Connolly, *Identity/Difference*, 94 - 222

November 23

Fall Break

November 30

Honneth, *The Struggle for Recognition*, pp. 1 - 92

December 7

Honneth, *The Struggle for Recognition*, pp. 92- 180

December 14

TBA