Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a native of nearby Geneva, was one of the deepest and most influential critics of the Enlightenment, and of the liberalism and capitalism that we have inherited from it. He is also one of the most complex thinkers of the modern age, standing at once on both the left and the right of the political spectrum, appealing to ancient thought and practice while at the same time paving the way toward postmodernism, and appearing to be both a profound champion of democracy and a precursor to totalitarianism. This course will examine this intriguing thinker through a study of the First and Second Discourses, The Social Contract, The Reveries of the Solitary Walker, and Emile.

Course Format and Requirements:

By far the most important requirement of the course is that you complete all assigned readings carefully and before class. Rousseau’s writings are as powerful and inspiring as any works of philosophy, but many of them are also – by design – difficult to penetrate and to see as a whole. For that reason, you should take the time to read the material slowly and carefully, taking notes about what seems important or intriguing and about what you don’t fully understand. These notes will also help immensely in generating useful and stimulating class discussion. 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 seminar format, and you should plan on participating every day. High-level participation requires that you grapple with the central ideas and arguments of the readings ahead of time, and bring to class any questions or confusions you might have. Note that class participation is not simply a “fudge factor” in determining your grade; a key component of the course is learning to articulate your thoughts/questions and to engage in our conversation about the issues at hand. You can expect to be called on if you do not volunteer. For those who feel nervous about talking in class, I encourage you to come see me early on so that we can develop strategies for effective participation.

Attendance is required; more than one absence will affect your participation grade, and absence from more than a third of the classes will automatically result in a failing grade. Students arriving late will generally be counted as absent.

The written requirements of the course include one medium-length paper (5-6 pages) and a
choice between a longer final paper (8-10 pages) or a comprehensive final exam – see the schedule below for due dates.

The medium-length paper will be analytical in nature and won’t require any research beyond the course readings; it will focus on the Discourses, The Social Contract, and/or the Reveries. I will hand out a set of potential topics and guidelines several classes in advance of the due date. Late papers will be penalized by 5 percentage points for each day they are late.

The longer, final paper too will be analytical in nature, but you will be responsible for devising your own topic. If you choose to write this paper instead of taking the exam, you must submit a short (1 page) paper proposal in advance and meet with me to discuss it, and the paper will be due on the same day as the exam.

The final exam will be comprehensive and will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medium-length paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper or final exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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*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://uss.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/plagiarism.asp

**Required Texts:**


Please purchase these translations of the texts. Other readings will be included in the required course pack.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>First Discourse (pp. 2-36) and “Preface to Narcissus” (course pack, pp. 92-106)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Second Discourse, Preface, Part 1, and Notes 9, 15, 16 (pp. 38-39, 51-90, 127-33, 147-49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Second Discourse, Part 2 (pp. 91-117)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5 Social Contract, Book 1, Book 2, chapters 1-6, and Book 4, chapters 1-2 (pp. 153-90, 243-47)

6 Social Contract, Book 2, chapters 7-12, Book 3, chapter 15, and Book 4, chapter 8 (pp. 190-203, 234-37, 263-72)

7 Reveries of the Solitary Walker, walks 1, 5 (course pack, pp. 1-11, 62-73)
The Confessions, beginning of Book 6 (course pack, pp. 189-91)

8 Reveries of the Solitary Walker, walks 6, 8 (course pack, pp. 74-88, 110-21)
Paper topics handed out in class

9 Emile, Preface and Book 1 (pp. 31-74)

10 Emile, first half of Book 2 (pp. 76-124)

11 Emile, second half of Book 2 (pp. 124-63)
Papers due in class

12 Emile, Book 3 (pp. 164-208)

13 Emile, first section of Book 4 (pp. 211-55)

14 Emile, middle section of Book 4 (pp. 255-315)

15 Emile, end of Book 4 (pp. 315-55)

16 Emile, first section of Book 5 (pp. 356-406)

17 Emile, middle section of Book 5 (pp. 406-50)
Final paper proposals due in class (for those writing a final paper)

18 Emile, end of Book 5 (pp. 450-80)

19 “Emile and Sophie; or, The Solitaries” (course pack, pp. 685-721)

Final exam or final paper due