

Tufts University
Spring 2011
Mon./Wed., 3:00-4:15
Barnum 008

Dennis Rasmussen
dennis.rasmussen@tufts.edu
Office hours: Mon./Wed., 4:30-5:30
Packard Hall 109

Teaching assistants:

Lisa Gilson, lisa.gilson@tufts.edu. Office hours: Thurs., 12:00-1:00, Packard Hall 101.
Scott Dodds, scott.dodds@tufts.edu. Office hours: Wed., 5:15-6:15, Packard Hall 001.

PS 42/Phil 42 – Western Political Thought II

In this course we will examine some of the central concepts of modern political thought, including the rejection of ancient political philosophy and Christianity and the rise of liberalism (Hobbes and Locke); the critique of the liberal outlook in the name of nature and virtue (Rousseau), equality and liberation (Marx), and creativity and greatness (Nietzsche); and the attempt to rescue or recover liberal modernity in the face of some of these worries (Smith and Tocqueville). In addition to exploring the various conceptions of nature, human nature, justice, freedom, history, and the good life found in the works of these thinkers, we will also use their arguments to reflect on the health or illness of liberal democracy in today's world.

Course Format and Requirements:

By far the most important requirement of the course is that you complete all assigned readings *carefully* and *before class*. My recommendation is to go over the readings relatively quickly once, to see what topics are covered and to pick out the main ideas, and then do them again, slowly and carefully, taking notes about what seems important or intriguing and about what you don't fully understand. 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 lecture-discussion format. That is, every class session will involve some lecturing but also some discussion and time for questions. In order to participate in these discussions and ask useful questions, you will need to grapple with the central ideas and arguments of the readings ahead of time. You should always bring the relevant text to class. You may not use laptops, iPads, or smartphones in class. (If a laptop is absolutely indispensable to you for some reason, please consult me.)

Grades will be determined by an in-class midterm exam (March 2), a take-home midterm exam (due April 11), and an in-class final exam (May 10), as well as class participation. I will use only the higher of your two midterm grades, but there will be no make-up exam if you miss class on March 2, and the take-home exam will not be accepted late. The in-class exams – both midterm and final – will consist of short answer and passage identification questions, and the take-home will be essay style. I will hold a review session in advance of both in-class exams (on March 1 and May 5, respectively).

Class participation credit can be earned in three ways:

- 1) *Attendance*. Attendance at the lectures is mandatory, and I will periodically call roll to enforce this. Students arriving after roll has been called will be counted as absent.

- 2) *Contribution to class discussions.* Those who ask or answer questions in class will be rewarded for doing so.
- 3) *Attendance and participation in discussion sessions.* In addition to the lectures, Lisa and Scott will hold six discussion sessions; see the schedule below. Participation in these sessions is voluntary but highly encouraged.

Exams will be given a numerical grade on the following scale:

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	59 and below

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm exam (higher grade)	40 %
Final exam	50 %
Class participation	10 %

The university's policy on academic honesty will be strictly adhered to.

Required Texts:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994).

John Locke, *Political Writings*, ed. David Wootton (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003).

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, trans. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings*, trans. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, ed. A. L. Macfie and D. D. Raphael (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1982).

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, ed. R. H. Campbell and A. S. Skinner (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1981). Two volumes.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, trans. Harvey Mansfield and Delba Winthrop (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, ed. Lawrence H. Simon (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994).

These books are available at the bookstore; please buy the editions and translations listed here. All other readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- 1/24 Introduction: The Ancients and the Moderns
- 1/26 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, introduction, chapters 6 (paragraphs 1-7, 49-58), 11 (paragraphs 1-2), 13-15 (pp. 3-5, 27-29, 33-35, 57-58, 74-100)
- 1/31 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 17-18, 19 (paragraphs 1-7), 20 (paragraphs 1-3, 18-19), 21, 29 (paragraphs 1-14), 30 (paragraphs 20-21), 31 (paragraph 41) (pp. 106-21, 127-28, 135-45, 210-15, 229, 243-44)
- 2/2 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 1-5, 6 (section 54) (pp. 261-86, 287-88)
- 2/7 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6 (section 57), 7 (sections 87-94), 8 (sections 95-101, 113-22), 9 (pp. 288-89, 304-12, 319-27)
David Hume, selection from "Of the Original Contract" (pp. 465-77)
- 2/8 (Tues.) Discussion section on Hobbes/Locke, 9-10 pm, Eaton 202
- 2/9 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 10-14, 19 (sections 211-31, 240-43) (pp. 327-49, 369-79, 386-87)
- 2/14 John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (pp. 390-433)
- 2/16 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, Preface, Part 1, and Notes 9, 15-16 (pp. 124-60, 197-204, 218-21)
- 2/21 No class – President's Day
- 2/22 (Tues.) Discussion section on Locke/Rousseau, 9-10 pm, Eaton 202
- 2/23 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, Part 2 (pp. 161-88)
- 2/24 (Thurs.) Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 1, Book 2 (chapters 1-6), and Book 4 (chapters 1-2) (pp. 39-68, 121-25)
- 2/28 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 2 (chapters 7-12), Book 3 (chapter 15), and Book 4 (chapter 8) (pp. 68-81, 113-16, 142-51)
- 3/1 (Tues.) Midterm exam review session, 9-10 pm, Barnum 008
- 3/2 **In-class midterm exam**
- 3/7 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 9-19, 67-71, 78-85, 109-19, 134-37, 156-61, 200-211
(Make sure you're reading the text and not the editor's introduction.)
- 3/9 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 50-53, 61-66, 149-51, 179-87, 212-17, 231-34
- 3/14 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 10-30, 341-46, 452-56, 687-88, 723-31, 781-97, 814-16
(Make sure you're reading the text and not the editor's introduction.)
- 3/15 (Tues.) Discussion section on Rousseau/Smith, 9-10 pm, Eaton 202

- 3/16 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 689-701, 706-23, 381-90, 397-405, 411-22
- Spring Break
- 3/28 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume 1: Introduction (pp. 3-15), Part 1, chapters 3-4 (pp. 45-55), Part 2, chapter 7 (pp. 235-49), Volume 2: Notice (pp. 399-400), Part 1, chapter 2 (pp. 407-10)
- 3/30 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume 2: Part 2, chapters 2, 4-5, 8-9 (pp. 482-84, 485-92, 500-506), Volume 1: Part 2, chapter 9 (pp. 278-88)
- 4/4 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume 1: Part 1, chapter 5 (pp. 57-65), Volume 2: Part 2, chapter 1 (pp. 479-82), Part 4, chapters 1-4, 6-7 (pp. 639-50, 661-73)
- 4/5 (Tues.) Discussion section on Smith/Tocqueville, 9-10 pm, Eaton 202
- 4/6 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume 2: Part 2, chapters 10-11, 13-14 (pp. 506-509, 511-17), Part 3, chapters 17, 19, 21 (pp. 587-88, 599-604, 606-17), Part 4, chapter 8 (pp. 673-76)
Take-home midterm exam distributed in class
- 4/11 Karl Marx, selections from “On the Jewish Question” (pp. 2-10, 14-21), *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (pp. 58-67), and *The German Ideology* (pp. 107-12, 123-25, 129-31)
Take-home midterm exam due at the beginning of class
- 4/13 Karl Marx, selections from *The Communist Manifesto* (pp. 158-76) and “Critique of the Gotha Program” (pp. 318-22, 327-32)
- 4/18 No class – Patriot’s Day
- 4/19 (Tues.) Discussion section on Tocqueville/Marx, 9-10 pm, Eaton 202
- 4/20 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science* #125 (pp. 95-96) and *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*, pp. 7-11, 14-25, 30-32
- 4/25 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “Prologue” part 5 (pp. 128-31), *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 9, #257-260 (pp. 201-8), and *The Genealogy of Morals*, Part 1, #6, 10, 13, 16-17 (pp. 31-33, 36-39, 44-46, 52-55)
- 4/27 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science* #343, 283, 341 (pp. 279-80, 228-29, 273-74), *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “The Convalescent” (pp. 327-33), and selection from *Ecce Homo* (pp. 782-83)
- 5/2 Leo Strauss, “The Three Waves of Modernity” (pp. 81-98)
- 5/3 (Tues.) Discussion section on Nietzsche/Strauss, 9-10 pm, Eaton 202
- 5/5 (Thurs.) Final exam review session, 3 pm, Barnum 008
- 5/10 (Tues.) **Final exam, 12:00-2:00**