

“If it had been found impracticable to have devised models of a more perfect structure, the enlightened friends to liberty would have been obliged to abandon the cause of [republican] government as indefensible. The science of politics, however, like most other sciences, has received great improvement. The efficacy of various principles is now well understood, which were either not known at all, or imperfectly known to the ancients.”

— *The Federalist Papers*, no. 9

“Oh, tell me who was it first said, who was it first proclaimed that the only reason man behaves dishonorably is because he does not know his own interests, and that if he were enlightened, if his eyes were opened to his real normal interests, he would at once cease behaving dishonorably and would at once become good and honorable because, being enlightened and knowing what is good for him, he would see that his advantage lay in doing good, and of course it is well known that no man ever knowingly acts against his own interests and therefore he would, as it were, willy-nilly start doing good. Oh, the babe! Oh, the pure innocent child!”

— Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground*

Political Science 4082
History of Political Theory: Machiavelli to Nietzsche
Spring 2015

Instructor: James Stoner <poston@lsu.edu>
Stubbs 208B (tel: 578-2538)

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-2:30;
Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00-10:00, and by appointment

Course requirements:

Daily quizzes on the reading [20%]

Midterm examination, on March 16 [20%]

8-10 pp. term paper: topic due March 26; glossary due April 13; paper due April 24 [30%]

Final examination, May 7 [30%]

Graduate Students and Honors Option: Extra sessions and 8-10 page paper on Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History* (Chicago) [ISBN 0226776948], due May 1 [worth equals term paper; percentages adjusted]

Books available for purchase:

Thomas More, *Utopia*, tr. Wootton (Hackett) [ISBN 9780872203761]

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, tr. Mansfield (Chicago) [ISBN 9780226500447]

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Curley (Hackett) [ISBN 9780872201774]

Adam Smith, *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, ed. Campbell & Skinner (Liberty Fund) [ISBN 9780865970083]

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Major Political Writings*, tr. Scott (Chicago) [ISBN 9780865970083]

G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, tr. Knox (Oxford) [ISBN 9780195002768]

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, tr. Mansfield & Winthrop (Chicago) [ISBN 9780226805368]
 Robert Tucker, ed., *Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton) [ISBN 9780393090406]
 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life* (Hackett) [ISBN 9780915144945]

Course Website:

A course website will be available to registered students through the Moodle system.

Library Reserve:

The readings for the course will be available on reserve in Middleton Library, and many are available as well on the internet. In some cases the editions or translations may differ from those listed above; please check with the instructor if this creates confusion as to what material is assigned. In addition, I will from time to time place on reserve certain secondary works that I think you might find particularly useful in helping you interpret the authors we are studying and in locating their place in the tradition of political philosophy. It should go without saying that secondary works are no substitute for the assigned reading; indeed, read without knowledge of the originals they are more apt to mislead than assist you.

SYLLABUS:

Wed., 1/14 Introduction

[MLK BREAK]

I. RENAISSANCE MODELS: CLASSICAL AND MODERN

Wed., 1/21 More, *Utopia* (pp. 52-160)

Mon., 1/26 Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 1-15

Wed., 1/28 *The Prince*, ch. 16-26

II. FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERALISM

Mon., 2/2 Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Author's Introduction, ch. 1-9

Wed., 2/4 *Leviathan*, ch. 10-16

Mon., 2/9 *Leviathan*, ch. 17-21, 26-28

Wed., 2/11 *Leviathan*, ch. 29-31, 46-47, Review & Conclusion

[MARDI GRAS BREAK]

Wed., 2/18 Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, intro., I.1-5, II.3-4, (pp. 10-64, 330-359)

Mon., 2/23 *Wealth of Nations*, III.1, 3-4; IV.1-2 (pp. 376-380, 397-472)

Wed., 2/25 *Wealth of Nations*, V.1f-g, 2f-g, 3.1-13, 59-64 (pp. 758-814, 847-858, 907-912, 929-932)

III. DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

- Mon., 3/2 Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (pp. 37-90)
 Wed., 3/4 *Discourse on Inequality* (pp. 91-151)
 Mon., 3/9 Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book I (pp. 153-178)
 Wed., 3/11 *Social Contract*, Book II; Book IV, ch. 8 (pp. 179-203, 263-272)

Mon., 3/16 **MIDTERM EXAM**

- Wed., 3/18 Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, pref.; intro., para. 1-4, Pt. I, para. 34-53, 104 (pp. 1-21, 37-46, 73-74)
 Mon., 3/23 *Philosophy of Right*, Pt. II, para. 105-114; Pt. III, para. 142-188, 257-271 (pp. 75-79, 105-126, 155-174)
 Wed., 3/25 *Philosophy of Right*, Pt. III, para. 272-360 (pp. 174-223)
 Mon., 3/30 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. I: intro; pt.1, ch. 3-4; pt. 2, ch. 1-4, 6 (pp. 3-15, 45-55, 165-186, 220-235)
 Wed., 4/1 *Democracy in America*, vol. I: pt. 2, ch. 7-9 (pp. 235-302)
 [SPRING BREAK]
 Mon., 4/13 *Democracy in America*, vol. II: pt. 1, ch. 1-8; pt. 2, ch. 1-11 (pp. 403-428, 479-509)
 Wed., 4/15 *Democracy in America*, vol. II: pt. 3, ch. 8-12; pt. 4, ch. 6-8 (pp. 558-576, 661-676)

IV. MODERNITY CRITIQUES ITSELF

- Mon., 4/20 Marx & Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party," in Tucker, pp. 469-500
 Marx, "On the Jewish Question," pp. 26-52
 Wed., 4/22 Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 143-145
 Marx, "The German Ideology," pp. 146-200
 Fri, 4/24 **PAPER DUE**
 Mon., 4/27 Nietzsche, *Advantage and Disadvantage of History*, pref., sect. 1-5 (pp. 7-32)
 Wed., 4/29 *Advantage and Disadvantage of History*, sect. 6-10 (pp. 32-64)

FINAL EXAMINATION (Thursday, May 7, 12:30-2:30 p.m.)