

PSC 374 LATE MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
TR 11:30-12:45
SPRING 2009
Kelly Lutz, Instructor

kelly.lutz@unlv.edu
WRI A220
702-895- 5230

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 10:00-11:30, or by appointment.

No thinker saw the problems of early modern political philosophy as well as the implications for justice or “right” more clearly than Rousseau. Many of Rousseau’s insights were taken up and developed in a wide variety of ways by later thinkers. His works can therefore be considered a turning point in the history of political thought. We will begin our study of late modern political theory with Rousseau’s Discourse on Inequality (also known as the Second Discourse). We will then turn to Rousseau’s Social Contract, Marx’s Communist Manifesto and other readings; and finally, Tocqueville’s Democracy in America.

Course Objectives: In analyzing the required works for this course, students will learn to read carefully, paying close attention to subtleties in and implications of the authors’ arguments. Students will show their progress toward this goal through in-class discussions and by writing academic papers that display thoughtfulness and close attention to the texts. Through the selected readings, students will also learn some of the distinguishing features of the late modern approach to politics, features that continue to influence contemporary understandings of the political world.

POLICIES

Grading

Two papers (5-7 pages): 20% and 25%, respectively

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 25%

Class participation (attendance and discussion) = 10% of final grade

Attendance - Required. Unexcused absences will lower your class participation grade.

Excused absences – A student missing a class because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by the last day of late registration to be assured of this opportunity. Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es). Please do not schedule work or a doctor’s appointment during class time. Speak with the instructor ahead of time if you believe you have to miss a class. Emergencies (illness, car problems, funerals) are excused with documentation.

Rebelmail – Use Rebelmail accounts for email. This is a UNLV policy.

Classroom conduct- Do not engage in conduct during class that disrupts the learning process. Inappropriate activities include, but are not limited to, eating during class, cellphone use or text messaging, laptop use for anything other than note-taking, talking to classmates. These behaviors will result in anything from an “absent” to a lowering of your grade, at my discretion.

Required Books:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Discourse on Inequality (Second Discourse) (Cambridge; edited by V. Gourevitch)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Social Contract (Cambridge; edited by V. Gourevitch)

Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto (Signet; Samuel Moore translation)

Karl Marx, selected readings on e-reserve

Alexis deTocqueville, Democracy in America (U. of Chicago; edited by H. Mansfield and D. Winthrop)

Recommended readings (not required) will posted on WebCampus

READING SCHEDULE- Any modification to the schedule will be announced in class and on WebCampus

Meeting # / Date / Assignment

1. Jan 13, Introduction
2. Jan 15 Rousseau Second Discourse pp. 112-128 (Frontispiece, Epistle Dedicatory, Preface)
3. Jan 20 Rousseau Second Discourse Part One, pp. 129-140
4. Jan 22 Rousseau Second Discourse Part One, pp. 140-150
5. Jan 27 Rousseau Second Discourse Part One, pp. 150-160
6. Jan 29 Rousseau Second Discourse Part Two, pp. 161-172
7. Feb 3 Rousseau Second Discourse Part Two, pp. 172-188
8. Feb 5 Rousseau Social Contract Book 1
9. Feb 10 Rousseau Social Contract Book 2: 1-7
10. Feb 12 Rousseau Social Contract Book 2: 8-12; Book 3: 1-4
PAPER 1 due
11. Feb 17 Rousseau Social Contract Book 3: 5-18
12. Feb 19 Rousseau Social Contract Book 4, especially ch 8
13. Feb 24 Marx, Communist Manifesto
14. Feb 26 Marx, Communist Manifesto
15. March 3 Marx, Communist Manifesto, "Theses on Feuerbach" (on E-Reserve)
16. March 5 Marx, "Alienated Labor" and "Communism and Private Property" (On E-Reserve)
17. March 10 Marx, German Ideology (on E-Reserve)
18. March 12 Marx, German Ideology (on E-Reserve)
19. March 17 Marx, German Ideology (on E-Reserve)
20. March 19 **MID TERM EXAM**
21. March 24 Tocqueville, Democracy in America volume 1 Introduction (pp. 3-15); part 1, chs 2-3 (pp. 27-53)
22. March 26 Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 1, part 1, ch 4; ch 5 selections (pp. 56-65; 75-98)
23. March 31 Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 1, part 2, chs 6-9 (pp. 220-302)
24. April 2, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 1, part 2, ch 10 (302-396)
PAPER 2 due
Spring Break
25. April 14, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 2 Intro. (pp. 399-400); v 2, part 1, chs 1- 3; 5 (pp. 403-415, 417-424)
26. April 16, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 2, part 1, chs 8-15; 17-20 (pp. 426-452; 458-472)
27. April 21, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 2, part 2 ch 1-11 (pp. 479-509)
28. April 23, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 2, part 2 ch 10-20 (pp. 506-532)
29. April 28, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 2, part 3, chs 1-4; 8-13; 17-19 (pp. 535-545; 558-578; 587-604)
30. April 30, Tocqueville, Democracy in America v 2, part 4, ch 1-3 (pp. 639-645); ch 6-8 (pp. 661-676)

FINAL EXAM- Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 10:10am

Academic Misconduct "Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution."

An example of academic misconduct is **plagiarism**: "Using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources." *See the "Student Academic Misconduct Policy" (at <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>>).*

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UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>