

PSC 375
Spring 2009
Professor Mark Lutz
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Recent Political Theory
WRI C237
Office: Wright 208a
Office hours: Mon 2:15-3:15 &
Wed. 2:15-4:15

In this course we read some of the most significant works in recent political thought. We will begin by focusing on radical criticisms of the Western intellectual, moral, and political tradition and will end by examining how these developments are reflected in recent liberal political theory.

The goal of the course is to help students to improve their ability to read, write, and discuss works of political philosophy.

Each class will combine lecture and discussion. It is very important that you come to class having done the assigned reading for that day and having brought a copy of the reading with you to class. . Read the material at least twice. Take notes and raise any questions you may have in class. This is what constitutes participation in the class.

Readings:

The following books should be purchased:

1. Martin Heidegger. *Introduction to Metaphysics*.
3. Friedrich Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*.
4. John Rawls. *A Theory of Justice*. Revised Edition.

The following readings will be available on reserve at the library and (or) online.

1. Carl Cohen. Editor. *Communism, Fascism, and Democracy*, 2d ed. Selections.
2. Joseph Cropsey, et al. *History of Political Philosophy*. "Nietzsche" and "Heidegger."
3. Martin Heidegger. "A Letter Concerning Technology."
-----"Only a God Can Save Us"
----- "The Self-Assertion of the German University."
4. John Rawls. "Liberalism: Political Not Metaphysical."
5. Richard Rorty. "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy"
-----"Postmodernist Bourgeois Liberalism"
6. Michael Sandel "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self."

Assignments

Assignments include:

1. In-class examination on March 11th. (20%)
2. 1st Paper (4-6 pages) due Feb. 9th. (20%)
3. 2nd Paper (4-6 pages) due April 1st. (20%)
4. Final examination (30%)
5. Class Participation (10%).

You must complete all written assignments in order to pass the course. Your grade will be reduced if you have more than two un-excused absences.

Make-up examinations and extensions for submitting papers will be granted only in cases of emergency (e.g., personal illness, preferably with a note from a doctor; serious illness in one's family). The grade on a paper will be reduced by one increment on the scale for each day the paper is late without an approved extension.

Reading Schedule

- 1/12 Introduction
- 1/14 Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Preface. Part 1.
- 1/21 Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Part 2, sections 32-38; 41-44 and Part 3.
- 1/26 Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Part 5, sections 186-88,. 197-203. and Part 6.
- 1/28 Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Part 7, sections 214-30.; and Part 8, sections 240-52.
- 2/2 Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Part Nine. 257-272.
- 2/4 Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Part Nine. 273-96.
- 2/9 Various authors. Selected writings on fascism. (Paper due)
- 2/11 Heidegger. "The Self-Assertion of the German University" and selected political statements.
- 2/18 Heidegger. *Introduction to Metaphysics*. Chapter 1, and selections.
- 2/23 Continued
- 2/25 Heidegger. "The Question Concerning Technology."
- 3/2 Continued
- 3/4 Heidegger. "Only a God Can Save Us"
- 3/9 Declaration of Independence.
Kant. *The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Selections.
- 3/11 Mid term exam.
- 3/16 Rawls. *A Theory of Justice*. Chapter one. Sections 1-6
- 3/18 Rawls *A Theory of Justice*. 11-15. 68.
- 3/23 Rawls *A Theory of Justice*. 22-26, 29.
- 3/25 Rawls *A Theory of Justice*. 31, 34-37, 40, 43.
- 3/30 Rawls *A Theory of Justice*. 60-68.
- 4/1 Sandel "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self." (Paper due)
- 4/13 Rawls "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical."
- 4/15 Rawls Continued.
- 4/20 Rorty "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy"
- 4/22 Rorty "Post-Modernist Bourgeois Liberalism"
- 4/27 Rorty "Achieving Our Country" (selections) et alia
- 4/29 Review

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