Instructor: Alan Ward (award@ucsd.edu)
Office hours: Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30 or by appointment. I can also do Skype office hours. Ask me for my Skype ID.
Office hour location: Art of Espresso café or in adjoining Mandeville Auditorium

Description of the course
This course serves as a gentle but substantive introduction to the thought of important political theorists from (roughly) the French Revolution to the beginning of the 20th century. These thinkers are very diverse and at least five of them are all-time superstars – people have had successful academic careers specializing in one of them.

There are many, many ways of approaching this material. This particular course will emphasize conceptual arguments over concrete historical knowledge. I've divided the thinkers into two broad groups. The first group consists of (1) Bentham / James Mill (we'll treat them as representing one view for the purposes of this course), (2) Kant, and (3) J.S. Mill. What unites these disparate authors is that they each advocate a conception of individual morality, and then advocate a political system designed to advance their theory of morality. Thus, although these authors are generally considered to be very different from one another, they each propose something that we would easily recognize as a system of individual morality. The second group consists of (4) Marx, (5) Nietzsche, and (6) Le Bon. What unites these authors is that they undermine the strategy of basing politics on an individual-centered system of morality.

Purposes of the course
I know that those of you taking this course have diverse interests, hopes, and dreams. I designed the course in a way that will hopefully appeal to all of you.

If you are thinking of going into grad school in something that looks like political theory, this course will give you a very solid base from which to pursue your studies. You'll be able to use the big names in seminars in a way that makes it clear that you know what you're talking about. You'll also be able to absorb new information about these authors quite quickly.

If you are thinking of going into law school or an unrelated grad program, this course will help you read texts that are far more difficult than anything you'll have to deal with. You'll get experience breaking down tough texts and constructing clear and easy-to-grasp analyses. If you're able to do this, your professors will cry tears of joy. To future law students: all the authors in the first group (1-3) provide the theoretic underpinnings to many current concepts of law. Most law students are at best dimly aware of them. You will be ahead of the game.

If you are taking this course as an elective or have plans that don't include law / grad school, this course will introduce you to texts that are legitimately inspirational and may change the way you live.
Seriously. What's more, you'll know enough about each thinker to be able to adequately discuss them on a date. It's up to you to decide if doing so will help or hurt your romantic chances.

**Academic honesty**
Please don't cheat.

If you have any questions about the university's academic integrity code, please ask me as soon as possible. If you don't ask, you've implicitly consented to follow it. I (think I'm) easygoing in many respects, but academic dishonesty is a capital crime.

**Accommodations**
If you need special accommodations please let me know as soon as possible.

**Grading**
The grading scheme and assignments are designed to assess four criteria: (i) the ability to mindlessly regurgitate key facts that you *have* to know if you want to say that you understand an author, (ii) the ability to read, deconstruct, and reproduce an author's argument, (iii) the ability to creatively assess arguments and combine them so as to form new arguments, and (iv) the ability to minimally participate in class discussions.

- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 40%
- Response papers: 20% (MAXIMUM 750 words each)
- Participation: 10%

The midterm and final are exactly what you think they are.

You can skip up to 3 classes, no questions asked, without losing any participation points. If you have a valid medical / coroner's / etc note to excuse the absence, it doesn't count toward the three. I don't recommend skipping class, but I won't be upset at you if you do.

I'll hand out four response paper prompts throughout the quarter. You'll be responsible for doing whichever three you want. The responses are really short (~2 pages each) and aren't designed to stress you out.

IMPORTANT: I'm here to help you succeed. Seriously. This course is not set up so that I can watch you fail while laughing maniacally. Short of writing your assignments for you, I'll do whatever I can to help. I don't get paid extra if people get poor grades, and I get very excited when students end up mastering the material.

**Readings**
All texts are available online for free. You can buy a hard copy version of any of these books if you want, but it's not required. If you do so, don't worry if the translation is different. Here are some links to all of the texts. Again, it's fine if you use different versions that you happen to come across.

I reserve the right to reduce (but not increase) the amount of required reading for this class. I've
included rough wordcounts for the texts. Keep in mind that these word counts correspond to the assigned portions of the texts.

Bentham – An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation (~10,700 words [disregard footnotes])
http://www.econlib.org/library/Bentham/bnthPML1.html (read chapters 1,2,7,8)

James Mill – Government (~16,000 words)
http://studymore.org.uk/xmilgov.htm (read all of it. Sorry.)

J.S. Mill – Utilitarianism (~9,000 words)
http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/millutil.pdf or
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/11224/11224-h/11224-h.htm (read chapter 2)

J.S. Mill – Considerations on Representative Government (~24,800 words)
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5669 (read chapters 2,3,4,5)

Kant – Fundamental Principles\(^1\) of the Metaphysics of Morals (~21,300 words)
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5682 (read first and second section. If it makes you feel better, those are the easier ones)

Kant – What is Enlightenment? (~2,575 words)

Kant – Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View (~5,000 words)
http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/kant/universal-history.htm (read all of it. 5000 words? Not so bad, right?)

Kant – Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch (~13,800 words [disregard footnotes])
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm (read main thing, as well as both supplements and both appendices)

Marx – Manifesto of the Communist Party (~11,400 words)
http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ (read all of it and amaze your friends with your knowledge of Marx)

Nietzsche – On the Genealogy of Morals (~25,500 words)
http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/genealogytofc.htm (read the first and second essays)

Le Bon – The Crowd (~37,000 words)
http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/BonCrow.html (read Book 1 and Book 2)

\(^1\) Aka “Groundwork”
**Schedule**
These dates correspond to when I plan on lecturing on a given topic. Everything except exam and response paper dates are tentative. If we need to spend more time on something, we will. It's up to you to figure out to what extent you feel like keeping up with the readings. I really, really suggest you read the readings twice: once before I lecture on it, and once after. The second time will go much faster.

Again, it's ultimately up to you.

Aug 5 Introduction
Aug 6 Background, introduction to first half of the course
   → first response paper prompt given
Aug 7 Bentham
Aug 8 James Mill

Aug 12 Kant (Metaphysics of Morals)
   → first response paper due
Aug 13 Kant (Metaphysics of Morals)
Aug 14 Kant (discussion and Enlightenment)
Aug 15 Kant (Universal History & Perpetual peace)

Aug 19 Mill (utilitarianism)
   → second response paper due
Aug 20 Mill (representative government)
Aug 21 Review / discussion / introduction to second half of the course
Aug 22 Exam

Aug 26 Marx
   → third response paper due
Aug 27 Marx, Nietzsche
Aug 28 Nietzsche
Aug 29 Nietzsche

Sep 2 DAY OFF – Labor Day
Sep 3 Le Bon
   → fourth response paper due
Sep 4 Le Bon / review / general discussion
Sep 5 Review

Sep 6 Final exam

Sep 7 Celebrations for you. Grading for me.
Sep 8 Grandparents day. (seriously. Look it up)