

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE 110C**

*Revolution and Reaction: Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche*

Spring Session (2015)  
Warren Lecture Hall 2204  
Tu/Th, 11:00-12:20

**Instructor:** Alan Ward ([award@ucsd.edu](mailto:award@ucsd.edu))

**Office hours:** Thursdays 12:30 – 2:30. I can also do Skype office hours if strictly necessary. Ask me for my Skype ID.

**Office hour location:** Art of Espresso café or in adjoining Mandeville Auditorium

**Teaching assistants:** Benjamin Brewer ([bhbrewer@ucsd.edu](mailto:bhbrewer@ucsd.edu)) & Huchen Liu ([hul045@ucsd.edu](mailto:hul045@ucsd.edu))

**Teaching assistant office hours:** By appointment. E-mail or see them to set up a meeting.

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> century. These thinkers are very diverse and at least five of them are all-time superstars – people have had successful academic careers specializing in any *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.

### **E-mail**

I check e-mail at least once every waking day, six days a week (I take Saturday off). This means that you might get an extremely quick response time, or, if you're very unlucky, there may be a lag of ~36 hours. i.e.: if I respond to my e-mail Monday morning and don't get a chance to do so again before Tuesday evening. Morals of the story: (1) I answer e-mail, (2) I may not answer as quickly as your friends do to one of your tweets. I am old and easily frightened by technology, so hopefully you will be forgiving on this point. All e-mail must be sent from your UCSD account.

*I may periodically communicate to the class via e-mail. I will assume that you are checking your UCSD e-mail at least once per weekday.*

### **Grading**

The most important question of all: *"Does Instructor Ward curve?"* The answer: sometimes, but never downwards.

This class has three important due dates:

First exam OR first paper:	May 7 ( <i>up to and including J.S. Mill</i> )
Second exam OR second paper:	June 4 ( <i>Marx, Nietzsche, Le Bon</i> )
Final exam OR final paper:	June 9 (Tuesday), 11:30 – 2:30
Extra credit assignment: 6.7%:	June 9 <b>no later than 11:30</b>

For each due date, *you have the choice to write an in-class exam OR an at-home paper, but not both.* **You must take at least one in-class exam and write one paper.** Papers prompts will be delivered 9 days before the due date and will require no outside sources. You can turn in your papers ahead of time if you want / if you're going to be out of town on the due date.

I will provide the following study materials:

- a series of questions, along with rough indications of where to find the answers in your readings
- I don't use PowerPoint, but I will post extremely brief summaries of what we discussed each class. These will go on TED. These will outline the main points but will not provide all the details that I discuss in class

This course does not have a participation grade. That is because I have never come across a sane and fair way to assign such a grade in a class this large. I don't recommend skipping class, though. I structure the lectures to facilitate preparing for the graded work. I also sometimes tell jokes about ducks.

The extra credit assignment will be a long, frustrating, and annoying analysis of secondary literature. I will personally grade this, should you choose to do it.

Last point: I'm here to help you succeed. 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 except Bentham's are available online for free; I will upload a .pdf of that file to the TED website. 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.

*Technical note that might apply to 0% of you: if you're using a VPN service to browse the web / download anonymously, you may have trouble accessing the Project Gutenberg links. The easiest way to deal with this is to just get off the VPN, go to the link, and save the text to your hard drive.*

Bentham – Selections. See PDF.

James Mill – Government

<http://studymore.org.uk/xmilgov.htm> **(read all of it. Sorry.)**

Kant – Fundamental Principles<sup>1</sup> of the Metaphysics of Morals

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5682> **(read first and second section. If it makes you feel better, those are the easier ones)**

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1 Aka “Groundwork”

Kant – What is Enlightenment?

<http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html> **(read all of it. Come on. It's short.)**

Kant – Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View

<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 [disregard footnotes]

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm> **(read main thing, as well as both supplements and both appendices)**

J.S. Mill – Utilitarianism

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfs/mill1863.pdf> or  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/11224/11224-h/11224-h.htm> **(read chapter 2)**

J.S. Mill – Considerations on Representative Government

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5669> **(read chapters 2,3,4,5)**

Marx – Manifesto of the Communist Party

<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

<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/genealogytofc.htm> **(read the first and second essays)**

Le Bon – The Crowd

<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/BonCrow.html> **(read Book 1 and Book 2)**

## Schedule

These dates correspond to when I plan on lecturing on a given topic. Everything except exam dates is 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.

Mar 31	Introduction
Apr 2	Background, introduction to first half of the course
Apr 7	Bentham
Apr 9	James Mill
Apr 14	Kant (Metaphysics of Morals)
Apr 16	Kant (Metaphysics of Morals)
Apr 21	Kant (discussion and Enlightenment)
Apr 23	Kant (Universal History & Perpetual peace)
Apr 28	J.S. Mill (utilitarianism) → <i>paper prompt #1 handed out</i>
Apr 30	J.S. Mill (representative government)
May 5	Review / discussion / introduction to second half of the course
<b>May 7</b>	→ <b>Exam / Paper #1</b> ←
May 12	Marx → <i>final paper prompt handed out</i>
May 14	Marx, Nietzsche
May 19	Nietzsche
May 21	Nietzsche
May 26	Le Bon → <i>paper prompt #2 handed out</i>
May 28	Le Bon
June 2	Review / discussion
<b>June 4</b>	→ <b>Exam / Paper #2</b> ←
<b>June 9</b>	→ <b>Final Exam / Paper</b> ←