Political Science 110C (897766): Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche

TERM: Spring 2017
ROOM: CSB 005
UNITS: 4; Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass Option
MEETING: MWF: 12:00pm-12:50pm
WEBPAGE: tritoned.ucsd.edu

INSTRUCTOR: John R. Gotti
EMAIL: jgottucsd@gmail.com
OFFICE HOURS: SSB 349: W 1-2pm

0. Course Description.

i. COURSE DESCRIPTION: After successful completion of this class you will have acquired a broad understanding of crucial concerns for political theorists and commentators from the 18th and 19th centuries. This period of time was marked by political revolution, in large part inspired by the Enlightenment ideas of ethical individualism, equality, and natural rights. However, these notions were not met with support by all, nor did their execution result in full coverage of those we think belong in the moral domain. The period was also one of rapid industrialization and stark economic inequality. This gave rise to a number of working class movements and a new political economic theory. Accordingly, the topics covered here include notions of liberty and freedom, rights and utility, republicanism, revolution, slavery, and economic liberation. Authors of interest include Montesquieu, Burke, Kant, Paine, Madison, Mill, Wollstoncraft, Hegel, Marx, Douglass, Truth, and DuBois.


i. GENERAL: Success in this class is highly dependent upon your preparedness and participation in discussion. This class is reading intensive. You are expected to HAVE THE MATERIAL READ BY THE DAY MARKED IN THE SCHEDULE BELOW. Email will be the primary means of communication between you and your professor. Allow 2 business days for a response from your professor before you email a follow-up without new content. TritonEd will be the technology suite used for this course – some course materials will be located there. Make sure you check blackboard regularly for syllabus and course schedule updates. Appointments with the instructor must be made in advance through email.

ii. LATE WORK, MAKE-UPS, RETAKES: Late work is not accepted. Make-ups are not provided. Retakes are not possible.

EXCEPTION: If you contact the instructor 48 hours before the class the day an assignment is due and you receive written confirmation by the instructor within 24 hours with an agreed upon date and time, then a make-up or an extension is possible. Note that this is only guaranteed if cleared by the instructor. Special emergencies such as tragedies, plagues, disasters, and will of course be accommodated.

iii. ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT: Students with disabilities needing accommodation may make requests to the Office for Students with Disabilities. The office is located in University Center 202, may be called at 858.534.4382, and may be emailed at osd@ucsd.edu. Their website is located at http://disabilities.ucsd.edu.

iv. PLAGIARISM POLICY: Plagiarism is a form of cheating or fraud; it occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an “F” grade. Violations of the student code of conduct are reported to and processed by the Academic Integrity Office. You may contact this office.
at http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu, 858.822.2163, or at 301 University Center. The current policy on sanctioning guidelines can be found at https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/_files/Sanctioning-Guidelines.pdf.

v. **Hostile Environment Policy**: No form of hate nor discrimination shall be tolerated by any means. No speech nor act that is blatantly or implicitly discriminatory against another person because of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, group affiliation, or socio-economic status shall be tolerated. Please be mindful, respectful of, and open to others’ perspectives and circumstances.

vi. **Technology Policy**: Cellphones and other personal communication devices are prohibited during class. Exceptions may be made in advance if a student is caring for a child or other family member. Laptops are acceptable for the limited purpose of note-taking and reference to class material. If you are going to spend your time Tumbling, Tweeting, and Facebooking, please do so elsewhere, or if you can’t resist, do so in the back of the room so as not to distract other students. Please be respectful of your peers’ right to learn. Technology is not necessary for this class.

2. **Required Reading.**

All of the readings can be found online. Links are found within the course schedule!

3. **Assessment.**

   i. Participation will be graded based on in class attendance and contribution to class discussion.

   ii. Each Friday (but for week one), students will present on an author according to a prompt for that week. Those who present will be responsible for answering a set of questions provided by the professor and for guiding discussion with the rest of the class. Attendance is mandatory and students not presenting are expected to have at least two analytic questions ready for that day.

   iii. There will be a take-home **midterm exam** on May 12, 2017.

   iv. There will be an in-class **final exam** on Wednesday, June 14 during finals week.

4. **Weights.**

   i. **Participation**: 10%.

   ii. **Presentation**: 20%.

   iii. **Midterm Exam**: 30%.

   iv. **Final Exam**: 40%
Course Schedule

I. Day One.

Apr. 3: Introductions ......................................................... No Reading.

II. Republics and Liberty.

Apr. 5: Benjamin Constant – *The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of Moderns*
Apr. 7: Constant *Continued*.
Apr. 10: Montesquieu – *The Spirit of the Laws*, sections 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5

III. State Legitimacy and Liberty.

Apr. 17: Immanuel Kant,
    • Kant – “What is Enlightenment?”.
    • Kant – “Principles of Political Right…”: From Here to The end of Here. Additionally.
Apr. 19: Kant – *Perpetual Peace*, sections 1.2, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3.
Apr. 21: Kant *Continued*. from HERE until beginning of “Second Supplement”.
Apr. 24: Mill – *Utilitarianism*, Chapter II until “Let us now look at actions that are done from the motive of duty….”, Mill – *On Liberty* Chapter I.
Apr. 26: Mill – *On Liberty*, Chapter II.
Apr. 28: Mill – *On Liberty*, Chapter IV.

IV. Enlightened Revolution?

May 1: Thomas Paine – *Common Sense* (up to “Of the Present Ability of America”), the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* and The U.S. Declaration of Independence.
May 3: Edmund Burke – *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: Here until The end of HERE and Here until The End of HERE. And Germaine de Staël – *Considerations on the Principal Events of the French Revolution* – *Chapter XII*.
May 5: Alexis de Tocqueville – *The Old Regime and the Revolution*: Preface, Section 1.5, Section 2.5, Section 2.10.

V. Spirit of the State.

May 8: Hegel – “General Introduction to the Philosophy of History”, *Sections 3.1 and 3.2*.
May 10: Hegel – “General Introduction to the Philosophy of History”, *Sections 3.3, 4.3*.
May 12: ......................................................... *Midterm Exam* ..........................................................
VII. Revolution Revisited: Marxism and Anarchism

May 24: Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations* excerpts. Also, John Locke’s *Second Treatise* – “Of Property”, read until Section 41.


May 29: ........................................Memorial Day: No Class .................................


Jun. 5: Michail Bakunin – Critique of the Marxist Theory of the State.

Jun. 7: Bakunin – Some Preconditions for a Social Revolution

Jun. 9: ................................................. Runoff padding .................................

VIII. Final

11:30a-2:30p – Wednesday, Jun. 14 ......................... Final Exam .................................

This schedule is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.