

GVPT 742
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Spring 04
Office hours: Tue 2:00-3:00 and 6:30-7:30
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MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

This is the second core course in the history of political philosophy and is supposed to cover the period from roughly 1450-1850 (usually Machiavelli up to, but not including, Nietzsche), that is, the modern period.

In teaching it this semester, I propose to focus on what constitutes the modern period, that is, on what the authors we call modern saw themselves as doing in contrast to what their ancient and medieval predecessors had done. Simply stated, the theme of the course is: what is modern about modern political philosophy?

It is traditional and surely necessary to look at the writings of Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), John Locke (1632-1704), and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) when thinking about modernity. In addition, I propose to consider Benedict Spinoza (1632-1677) and Georg Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831). The writings we will study together in the seminar are Hobbes's *Leviathan*, Locke's *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, Rousseau's *Social Contract*, Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, and Spinoza's *Political Treatise*. Precisely because Machiavelli is so well known and most students have already read at least his *Prince*, it seems reasonable to forego the pleasures of reading this intriguing author in order to become acquainted with the novel thought of Spinoza. Would that we could also include that of Bacon, but time presses.

What, it may be asked, only 5 books by 5 different authors? Yes, because my goal is to read these books carefully and attempt to state as clearly as possible the argument of each author as well as to analyze its soundness. I am most happy to give suggestions for additional reading, especially of primary sources.

Requirements for credit: 5 very short analyses (2-3 pages, 500-750 words) of the argument set forth in the reading for a particular class period. These are due at the start of the class in question. Each analysis must be about one of the 5 authors read this semester. So a paper on Spinoza is necessary. In addition, two short papers (8-10 pages, 2000-2500 words), one on Hobbes, Locke or Rousseau; the other on Hegel. They are to provide a critical analysis of a theme in the work of each author. The first one is due before the last meeting devoted to the particular author and the second by the date of the final.

Students are expected to read the assigned material, take notes, and organize on paper the general lines of argument within the particular reading before coming to class. Such preparation will take between 6-9 hours, surely not more. Moreover, it is necessary to attend all classes. More than 3 absences will result in a failing grade.

The short analyses count for 30% of the grade, each of the short papers for 30%, and intelligent participation for the remaining 10%.

Please take advantage of office hours to make contact with me and to talk about your progress as well as other matters. If posted hours do not work, make a special appointment.

For the record:

1. The UMD Code of Academic Integrity will be enforced. In short, no cheating.
2. Students with documented disabilities should see me. Your needs will be accommodated.
3. The UMD policy of respecting the religious observances of students or their participation in university activities will be followed. I must be informed of these absences by February 10, 2004.

READING SCHEDULE

1. January 29: Introduction (overview of ancient and medieval political philosophy with special attention to the issues that prompt a break; the innovations of Machiavelli and Bacon)
2. February 5: Benedict Spinoza, *Political Treatise*
3. February 12: **NO CLASS**
4. February 19: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The First Part – Of Man
5. February 26: **NO CLASS**
6. March 4: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The Second Part – Of Commonwealth
7. March 11: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The Third Part – Of a Christian Commonwealth
8. March 18: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The Fourth Part – Of the Kingdom of Darkness

SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!

9. April 1: John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 1-8, ¶¶ 1-122
10. April 8: John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 9-19, ¶¶ 123-243
11. April 15: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Books One-Two
12. April 22: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Books Three-Four
13. April 29: Georg Friedrich Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Preface plus Introduction and Part One, Abstract Right, ¶¶ 1-104.
14. May 6: Georg Friedrich Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Part Two, Morality and Part Three, Manners, Sections One-Two, Family and Civil Society, ¶¶ 105-256
15. May 13: Georg Friedrich Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Part Three, Section Three, The State, ¶¶ 257-360
16. May 20 (TBD): John Locke, *The First Treatise of Government* and also Robert Filmer, *Patriarcha*

Books to Order

Required

Benedict Spinoza, *Political Treatise in Works of Spinoza*, trans. with intro. R. H. M. Elwes (New York: Dover, 1951), paper, ISBN 0486202496, \$12.95.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, edited J. C. A. Gaskin (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), paper, ISBN: 0192834983, \$8.95.
or edited C. B. MacPherson (Viking, Penguin Classics), paper, ISBN 0140431950, \$9.95.

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, edited Peter Laslett (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), paper, ISBN: 0521357306, \$11.00.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Social Contract*, trans. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 1997), paper, ISBN: 0521424461, \$13.00.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, trans. Alan White (Boston: Focus Publishing / R. Pullins & Co, 2002), paper, ISBN: 1585100412, \$16.95.
or trans. T. M. Knox (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), paper, ISBN: 0195002768, \$24.95.
or *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, trans. H. B. Nisbet (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), paper, ISBN: 0521348889, \$18.00.

Recommended

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Reveries of the Solitary Walker*, trans. Charles E. Butterworth (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992), paper, ISBN 0872201627, \$8.80.

The break with ancient and medieval philosophy

- 1433-1499 Marsilius Ficino
1463-1494 Giovanni Pico della Mirandola
1467-1536 Didier Erasmus
1469-1527 Niccolò Machiavelli
1483-1546 Martin Luther
- 1509-1564 John Calvin
1530-1596 Jean Bodin
1533-1592 Michel d'Eyquem, Sieur de Montaigne
1544-1595 Torquato Tasso
1547-1616 Miguel de Cervantes
1548-1617 Francisco Suarez
1553-1600 Richard Hooker
1557-1638 Johannes Althusius
1561-1626 Francis Bacon
1564-1616 William Shakespeare
1583-1645 Hugo Grotius
1588-1679 Thomas Hobbes
1596-1650 René Descartes, esp. *Discours sur la méthode*
- 1608-1674 John Milton
1622-1673 Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, dit Molière
1623-1662 Blaise Pascal
1632-1677 Benedict Spinoza
1632-1704 John Locke
1632-1694 Samuel Pufendorf
1639-1699 Jean Racine
1651-1715 François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon
1668-1741 Giovanni Batista Vico
1689-1755 Charles Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu
- 1711-1776 David Hume
1712-1778 Jean-Jacques Rousseau
1723-1790 Adam Smith
1724-1804 Immanuel Kant
1729-1781 Gotthold Ephraïm Lessing
1729-1797 Edmund Burke
1767-1830 Benjamin Constant de Rebecque
1770-1831 Georg W. F. Hegel
1798-1857 Auguste Comte
- 1804-1887 Faris al-Shidyaq
1805-1859 Alexis de Tocqueville
1819-1883 Butrus al-Bustani
1806-1873 John Stuart Mill
1817-1861 Henry David Thoreau
1818-1883 Karl Marx
1823-1892 Ernest Renan
1837-1897 Jamāl al-Dīn al-Afghānī
1844-1900 Friedrich Nietzsche