

PHILOSOPHY 166 CLASSICS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY INTRODUCTORY HANDOUT

Spring, 2001

Professor Richard Arneson MWF 1:25-2:15 in WLH 2115.

This course is an introduction to the issue of political legitimacy: What is required in order that a government's coercion of its citizens to obey the law should count as morally legitimate? What are the legitimate functions of the state? We explore these questions by studying some classic texts of political theory. The authors of these texts radically disagree in their answers. Our working assumption is that these differences are instructive, partly because in modern democracies today these questions remain unsettled. The goal of the course is to improve our understanding of these core texts in political theory, to assess their arguments, and to reflect on our own political values.

Course Texts: John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*; Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*; Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (both of these Rousseau texts are included in Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*); Robert Tucker (editor), *The Marx-Engels Reader*; John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*; John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, and a Course Reader.

Course Requirements: Quizzes (see below), a midterm exam in class, an analytical writing assignment (about five to seven pages in length), and a regular final exam. The writing assignment will not require extra reading, but will ask you to interpret and assess some course texts. On the writing assignment you will have a choice among topics assigned in class. The final exam will comprehend all course materials (required--**not** recommended-- readings, lectures, and handouts), but will emphasize material not covered on the midterm.

For the course to be useful to you, it is important that you come to class prepared to participate in informed discussion of the readings. I won't try to grade class participation, but as a proxy for class participation I will give six surprise quizzes in class during the term. The quizzes will be brief and will test your understanding of that day's and perhaps the previous class's readings and lectures.. No makeups will be given for these quizzes. Your two worst quiz scores will be discarded, and the scores on the remaining four will be added and assigned a single grade.

The final exam for this class is scheduled at Thursday, June 14, from 11:30--2:30. You should be sure that you can attend this final exam (e.g., that you do not have too many other finals on this same day) before you enroll in this class.

Grading: The midterm exam counts for 25 per cent of your final grade, as does the writing assignment, and the final exam counts for 40 per cent. The pop quizzes count for 10 per cent.

Course grading for those enrolled on a Pass/Not Pass basis: If you are taking the course on a Pass/Not Pass basis, you must get a C- or better on the final exam in order to earn a

Pass grade in the course, with one exception: If you have an A- average or better on the midterm and writing assignment, and quizzes, you will be excused from the final exam.

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS AND LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPICS

Week 1. April 2-8

MON: Introduction to Locke. Reading: None.

WED: Locke on natural rights; the state of nature, the right to property. Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 1-5.

FRI: Same topic continued. Reading: same as for Wednesday.

Week 2. April 9-15

MON: Consent and tacit consent; Locke on the family. Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6-8; also John Simmons, "Tacit Consent and Political Obligation," in course reader. Recommended reading: Hannah Pitkin, "Obligation and Consent I," in course reader.

WED: Limited government. Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 9-14.

FRI: Tyranny and the right of revolution. Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 15-19.

Week 3. April 16-22

MON: Natural man. Reading: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Part I (pages 23-60 in *The Basic Political Writings*), plus Rousseau's notes to Part I.

WED: The founding of civil society. Reading: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Part II (pages 60-81 in *The Basic Political Writings*), plus Rousseau's notes to Part II.

FRI: Conclusion of discussion of Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*.

Week 4. April 23-29

MON: The Social Contract. Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I.

WED: The general will. Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II.

FRI: Government and direct democracy. Reading: Rousseau, Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book III.

Week 5. April 30-May 6

MON: Rousseau: liberal, radical democrat, or totalitarian? Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book IV.

WED: Rousseau and the justification of democracy. Reading: David Estlund, "Beyond fairness and Deliberation: The Epistemic Dimension of Democratic Authority," in course reader.

FRI: MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS.

Week 6. May 7-13

MON: Karl Marx on alienated labor. Reading: Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," sections on "Estranged Labour" and "Private Property and Communism," in *Marx-Engels Reader*.

Week 6 continued.

WED: Marx versus money and exchange. Reading: Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” sections on “The Meaning of Human Requirements” and “The Power of Money in Bourgeois Society,” in *Marx-Engels Reader*; also Michael Walzer, “Money and Commodities” (chapter 4 of Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* [1983]).

FRI: Historical materialism. Reading: “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” in *Marx-Engels Reader*.

Week 7. May 14-20

MON: Marx on the dynamic of capitalist markets. Reading: “Manifesto of the Communist Party”; also handout excerpt from “Preface” to the *Critique of Political Economy*.

WED: Exploitation. Reading: “Wage Labour and Capital,” in *Marx-Engels Reader*.

FRI: Marx’s amorality. Reading: Allen Wood, “The Marxian Critique of Justice,” in course reader. Recommended reading: Richard Arneson: “What’s Wrong with Exploitation?” and “Marxism and Secular Faith,” both in course reader.

Week 8. May 21-27

MON: Communist revolution; the stages of communism. Reading: Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program,” in *Marx-Engels Reader*; also G. A. Cohen, “Self-ownership, Communism, and Equality: Against the Marxist Technological Fix,” in course reader.

WED: Communism and democracy. Reading: Introduction and Part III of “The Civil War in France,” in *Marx-Engels Reader*. Recommended reading: J. S. Mill, “Chapters on Socialism” and “The Probable Futurity of the Labouring Class,” in course reader.

FRI: Utilitarian liberalism; the liberty principle; Mill versus paternalism. Reading: excerpt from chapter 2 of Mill, *Utilitarianism*, in course reader; also Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 1.

Week 9. May 28-June 3

MON: NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

WED: WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE. Individuality and liberty. Reading: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 3. (Chapter 2 of *On Liberty* is recommended but not required.)

FRI: Direct and indirect harm to others. Reading: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 4 and 5.

Week 10. June 4-10

MON: Sexual equality and marriage. Reading: Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, chapters 1-2.

WED: Does utilitarianism support women’s equality? Reading: Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, chapters 3-4; also Julia Annas, “Mill and the Subjection of Women,” in course reader.

FRI: Women’s equality: a dissenting view. Reading: James Fitzjames Stephen “Equality” (excerpt from Stephen, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* [1886]), in course reader.

Arneson’s office hours: Mondays 3-4 and Thursdays 3-4 in HSS 8057.

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