

**PHILOSOPHY 166 CLASSICS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY INTRODUCTORY
HANDOUT revised 5/18**

Spring, 2006

Professor Richard Arneson

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. in Cognitive

Science Building 005.

For further information about the course, which will change week by week, consult the Philosophy Department web site, at <http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/Courses> and click on Spring, 2006, then on Philosophy 166.

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, *Considerations on Representative Government*.

Course Requirements: A midterm exam in class, an argument assessment exercise (about three pages total), 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 (readings, lectures, and handouts). The final exam will consist of one and a half hours of essay questions (these will emphasize material covered after the midterm) and one and a half hours of short "paragraph essay" questions testing reading comprehension (these will range over all course readings).

The argument assessment exercise is as follows. Before eleven p.m. on the night before a given class, you email me an evaluation of some significant argument in the readings to be covered in the next day's class. You should lay out the argument that the author presents as you see it, comment on its significance, and assess its cogency. (Does the conclusion follow from the premises? Are the premises true, or plausible?) This evaluation can be one page in length, one and a half pages, two pages, or three pages. Before the beginning of week nine of the quarter you must have turned in three pages of these assessments (this could be one three-page exercise, or three one-page exercises, and so on). To be counted, any such evaluation exercise on a reading must be turned in the night before the class at which the reading is assigned; no late exercises accepted. The purpose of this exercise is to encourage you to engage with the reading seriously before the class discussion of that reading.

The final exam for this class is scheduled for Friday, June 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. You should be sure that you can attend this final exam (i.e., 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, the writing assessment exercise for 10 per cent, and the final exam counts for 40 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, you will be excused from the final exam.

The key to success in this class is to keep up with the reading steadily. The reading varies in difficulty; some of it is quite challenging, and there is a substantial amount of it. As you know from your prior philosophy work, philosophy readings often require several re-readings before you understand them to the point that you can begin to criticize and assess them. If you do each reading before the lecture/discussion that deals with it, you will get more out of both the reading and the lecture/discussion.

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS AND LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPICS

Week 1. April 3-9

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 10-16

MON: Consent and tacit consent; Locke on the family. Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6-8; also John Simmons, "Tacit Consent and Political Obligation," available from course web page.

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 17-23

MON: Conclusion of Locke discussion. Reading: no extra reading.

WED: 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.

FRI: 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.

Week 4. April 24-30

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

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

FRI: The general will. Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II. Recommended reading: Frederick Neuhouser, "Freedom, Dependence, and the General Will," available from course web page.

Week 5. May 1-7

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

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

FRI: **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS.**

Week 6. May 8-14

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*.

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*.

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

Week 7. May 15-21

MON: Marx's amorality. Reading: "Manifesto of the Communist Party"; also handout excerpt from "Preface" to the *Critique of Political Economy*; also Allen Wood, "The Marxian Critique of Justice," available from course web page..

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

FRI: Communist revolution; the stages of communism. Reading: Marx, "Critique of the Gotha Program," in *Marx-Engels Reader*.

Week 8. May 22-28

MON: Communism and democracy. Reading: Introduction and Part III of "The Civil War in France", in *Marx-Engels Reader*.

TUES: MAKEUP LECTURE HSS 1106B, 7:00-7:50 p.m. Mill on happiness; utilitarian liberalism; The liberty principle. Reading: handout excerpt from chapter 2 of Mill, *Utilitarianism*; Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 1.

WED: Individuality and liberty. 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 9. May 29-June 4

MON: NO CLASS. HOLIDAY. Instructor available for email consultation over Memorial Day weekend until 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 30. Email address-- rarneson@san.rr.com

WED & FRI: NO CLASS. Instructor available for email consultation Saturday evening June 3 and Sunday, June 4. email address – rarneson@san.rr.com

Week 10. June 5-11.

MON: **WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS.** Utilitarianism and democracy. Reading: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chapters 1-3.

MON or TUES: Makeup lecture, date, time and place to be announced. Mill's hedges and qualifications. Reading: Mill, *Chapters on Representative Government*, chapters 4-6.

WED: Plural votes and proportional representation. Reading: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chapters 7 and 8.

FRI: The secret ballot, pledges, and nationality. Reading: Mill *Considerations on Representative Government*, chapters 10, 12, and 16.

FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 8-11 in the morning.

Arneson's office hours: Tuesdays 12-1 and Thursdays 3-4 in HSS 8057.

Arneson's email: rarneson@ucsd.edu [but see note for week 9]