

Political Science 110c
REVOLUTION AND REACTION:
POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM KANT TO NIETZSCHE
Professor Houston
Spring 2001

Course Description

This course is intended to provide an overview of European political thought from the French Revolution to the end of the nineteenth century. It is focused around the moral and political challenges posed by the collapse of the *ancien regime*, the growth of bureaucratically organized nation-states, the rise of modern science, and the economic dominance of capitalism. Among the topics to be addressed are the following: What are the sources of moral and political values? Is there a meaning to human history? What are the rights and duties of citizens? Can private property and economic inequality be justified?

Work in this course will introduce students to some major thinkers in the Western intellectual tradition, enrich the student's perspective on fundamental problems in political life, and increase the student's ability to critically evaluate conceptually difficult material.

Students are expected to attend lecture, participate in class discussions, and complete each day's reading assignment in advance.

Requirements

1. Participation in the PS 110c virtual discussion section. Each student must post at least four messages during the quarter: an "introduction" on or before 9 April, and at least three other messages during different weeks of the quarter. Guidelines will be distributed on 4 April. (10% of grade)
2. A four-page (1200 word) paper on Paine or Burke, due at the start of class on Friday, 20 April. Topics and paper-writing guidelines will be distributed in advance. (20% of grade)
3. A twenty-minute quiz on Kant, to be given in-class on Wednesday, 2 May. Questions will be distributed in advance. (10% of grade)
4. A four-page (1200 word) paper on Tocqueville or Marx, due at the start of class on Monday, 21 May. Topics will be distributed in advance. (30% of grade)
5. A one-hour examination on Mill and Nietzsche, to be given Monday, 11 June, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Questions will be distributed in advance. (30% of grade)

Books Recommended for Purchase

The following books are available at the University Bookstore:

Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett)

Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays* (Hackett)

Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (Anchor)

Marx, *Selected Writings* (Hackett)

Mill, *On Liberty* (Hackett)

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Vintage)

Three short documents—the *Declaration of Independence*, Paine's *Common Sense*, and the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*—can be purchased at UCSD Soft Reserves. They are also available as E-texts, and can be downloaded from the course web site.

Additional Information

1. My office is SSB 373. My phone number is x42951; my email address is ahouston@ucsd.edu. My office hours for Spring 2001 are Wednesdays, 12:30 – 2:00.
2. The following secondary sources are on reserve at the library:
 - John Garraty and Peter Gay, *The Columbia History of the World*
 - John Plamanetz, *Man and Society*
 - George Sabine, *A History of Political Theory*
3. Visit PS 110c on the web at <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~ahouston/ps110c.htm>. This site includes course information, handouts and assignments, links to electronic texts, and the virtual discussion section.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule

1. Introduction (2 April)

The Nature and Purpose of Political Theory

2. Rights (4 - 6 April)

The Declaration of Independence

Tom Paine

Common Sense, sections 1-4

3. Tradition (9 - 16 April)

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

Edmund Burke

Reflections on the Revolution in France (pp. 3-99, 124-25, 144-53, 160-63, 213-18)

4. Utility (18 - 20 April)

Jeremy Bentham

(no assigned readings)

5. Autonomy (23 - 30 April)

Immanuel Kant

“An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?”

“Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent”

“To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” (read only pp. 107-25)

6. Revolution (2 - 18 May)

Alexis de Tocqueville

The Old Regime and the French Revolution

Karl Marx

On the Jewish Question

Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts (read only pp. 54-79)

The German Ideology

The Communist Manifesto

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte

Capital (pp. 216-43)

7. Individualism (21 – 30 May)

John Stuart Mill

On Liberty, chs. 1-4 (pp. 1-91)

8. The Will to Power (1 – 8 June)

Friedrich Nietzsche

On the Genealogy of Morals, Preface; Parts I, III (pp. 15-56, 97-163)