

PHILOSOPHY 166 CLASSICS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
INTRODUCTORY HANDOUT REVISED VERSION 1/8/2011
Winter, 2011 Professor Richard Arneson
Class meets MWF 1:00-1:50 in Mandeville Hall B-152 (at least until further notice)..

For further information about the course, which will change throughout the quarter, consult the course web page at WebCT.

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*. All of these books except Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, are available at the UCSD bookstore. Note: The Mill writings are also available on the web at <http://www.utilitarian.net/jsmill/>. The Locke writing is available on the web at <http://www.constitution.org/jl/2ndtreat.htm>.

Course Requirements: There will be quizzes held at the start of class six times throughout the quarter. They will test basic comprehension of that day's reading. The other requirements are 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 (readings, lectures, and handouts). The final exam will consist of one and a half hours of essay questions (these will somewhat 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 final exam for this class is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 18. 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 quizzes count for 10 per cent of your final grade, The midterm exam counts for 25 per cent of your final grade, the writing assignment for 30 per cent, and the final exam counts for 35 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 all class work up to the final, you will be excused from the final exam.

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS AND LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPICS

Week 1. January 3-9.

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

WED: Same topic continued. Reading: same as for Monday.

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

Week 2. January 10-16.

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

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

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

Week 3. January 17-23.

MON: NO CLASS. MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY.

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. January 24-30.

MON: The Social Contract. Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I. Recommended reading: Joshua Cohen, *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals*, chapters 1 & 2.

WED: The general will. Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II; also Frederick Neuhouser, "Freedom, Dependence, and the General Will," available at course web page.

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

Week 5. January 31-February 6.

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

WED: **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS.**

FRI: 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*.

Recommended reading: excerpt from "Hard Work," chapter 6 of his *Spheres of Justice*, available at course web page.

Week 6. February 7-13.

MON: 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*. Recommended reading: Michael Walzer, excerpt from "Money and Commodities," chapter 4 of his *Spheres of Justice*, available at course WebCt page.

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

FRI: **[PLEASE NOTE—THIS CLASS HAS TO BE RESCHEDULED.]** 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 at course WebCT page.

Week 7. February 14-20

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

WED: Communist revolution; the stages of communism. Reading: Marx, "Critique of the Gotha Program," in *Marx-Engels Reader*. Recommended reading: G. A. Cohen, "Why Not Socialism?," available at course WebCt site.

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

Week 8. February 21-27.

MON: NO CLASS. PRESIDENTS' DAY.

WED: Mill's utilitarianism. Reading: handout excerpt from Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 2. Recommended: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 1.

FRI: Utilitarian liberalism; the liberty principle; Mill versus paternalism. Reading: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 1. Available at <http://www.utilitarian.net/jsmill/>

Week 9. February 28- March 6.

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

WED: **WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS.** Direct and indirect harm to others. Reading: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 4 and 5.

FRI: Mill on the limits of laissez-faire. Reading: Mill, *Principles of Political Economy*, Book V, ch. 11. At <http://www.utilitarian.net/jsmill/>

Week 10. March 7-13.

MON: Mill on the stationary state and the future of capitalist wage labor. Reading: Mill, *Principles of Political Economy*, Book IV, ch. 7, sections 1-6 (but skip all of the details Mill reports about contemporary coops; in sections 5 and 6). Further recommended BUT NOT required reading: Mill, Chapters on Socialism, chapter

4, "The Difficulties of Socialism," pp. 1-9—stop at the subheading, "The Idea of Private Property not Fixed but Variable." At Mill web site listed for last Monday.

WED: Mill on representative government. Reading: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chapters 2-3. At Mill web site.

FRI: Mill on democracy and plural votes. Reading: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chapters 6, and 8. . At Mill web site.

Arneson's office hours: Mondays 3-4 and Tuesdays 2-3 and in HSS 8057.

Arneson's email: rarneson@ucsd.edu