

Political Science 301  
Professor Brian J. Shaw

Contemporary Political Theory  
Spring 2009

Office: Chambers 3014  
Hours: Daily, by appointment  
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Texts:

Karl Marx, "On the Jewish Question"(photocopy handout)  
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto (International)  
Friedrich Nietzsche, The Genealogy of Morals (Anchor)  
Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, Utopia (Basic)  
Martha Nussbaum, Sex and Social Justice (Oxford)  
John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (Revised Edition) (Harvard)  
Michael Walzer, Spheres of Justice (Basic)

(All texts are available in paperback editions at the Student Store.)

Goals of the Course:

The course seeks to expose students to the thought of some of the seminal political philosophers since the mid-nineteenth century. It commences with an examination of Marx's and Nietzsche's repudiation of classical liberal thought and then explores some of the ways in which some twentieth century thinkers have sought in the wake of this critique to renew and expand the liberal tradition.

The goals of the course are two: 1) to familiarize students with some of the best and most influential political philosophers of our time; and 2) to engage students in the inescapable controversies which these thinkers raise, but which remain as yet unresolved. Our means to accomplish both goals is close readings of some of their most representative works.

The course has no prerequisites. It assumes no prior knowledge of these or other particular course materials.

Examinations:

The evaluation of each student's comprehension of the course materials consists primarily of three take-home, open-book, open-notes course reviews. The first will be handed out Thursday, Feb. 5, and returned to the instructor by noon on Friday, February 13. The second review will be handed out Thursday, March 26 and returned by noon on Friday, April 3. The final review will be handed out Tuesday, April 28, and returned by noon Thursday, May 7.

Each review will be typed and no longer than six (6) pages. The first two reviews will be penalized one letter grade for every class day they are late; the final review will be penalized one letter grade for every calendar day it is late.

In addition to these three written assignments, a portion of students' course grade will be determined by their participation in class discussion. The weight of each requirement is the following:

First Review:	25%	(Marx, Engels and Nietzsche)
Second Review:	30%	(Rawls and Nozick)
Final Review:	35%	(Walzer and Nussbaum)
Class Discussion:	10%	

Class Participation:

The course is structured overwhelmingly around the discussion of the assigned texts. It is accordingly extremely important that students familiarize themselves with the readings before each class meeting. It is also important that students conscientiously attend and contribute to class discussions. Each student is allowed 2 unexcused cuts; absences in excess of this number will result in a grade of "F" for class discussion.

Final Note:

While this course is not cumulative in the usual sense, it is developmental, and the reviews and discussions will reflect this characteristic. It is thus very important that students make every effort to keep abreast of the schedule of readings. It is difficult to assimilate this material in any "cram course" fashion. Although admittedly demanding on occasion, the schedule should be manageable, and it is expected that students will be prepared on time.

All provisions of the DAVIDSON HONOR CODE are in effect for this course, and all written work shall be pledged in accordance with it. Unpledged reviews will not be accepted and Honor Code violations will be vigorously prosecuted. Students uncertain about the terms and requirements of the Code should request clarification from the instructor.

- I. Introduction
- II. Liberalism Rejected: Marx, Engels, Nietzsche
- III. Liberalism Revived: Rawls and Nozick
- IV. Liberalism Extended: Walzer and Nussbaum

Schedule of Readings:

- I. Introduction: The Intellectual and Political Setting (January 13)  
Required Reading: none
  
- II-A. Marx and Engels: Socialism contra Liberalism (January 15-27)  
Required Reading: The Communist Manifesto (all)  
"On the Jewish Question" (all)  
Recommended: S. Avineri, Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought
  - I. Berlin, Karl Marx
  - G. Cole, The Meaning of Marxism
  - H. Draper, Marx's Theory of Revolution (3 Vols.)
  - J. Elster, Making Sense of Marx
  - L. Kolakowski, Main Currents of Marxism (Vol.I)
  - G. Lichtheim, Marxism  
The Origins of Socialism
  - D. McLellan, Karl Marx  
The Thought of Karl Marx
  - R. Schmitt, Introduction to Marx and Engels
  - P. Singer, Marx
  
- II-B. Nietzsche: The Aristocratic Revolt Against Liberalism (Jan.29-Feb.12)  
Required Reading: The Genealogy of Morals (all)  
Recommended: K. Ansell-Person, Introduction to Nietzsche
  - P. Berkowitz, Nietzsche
  - C. Brinton Nietzsche
  - F. Copleston, Friedrich Nietzsche
  - A. Danto, Nietzsche as Philosopher
  - E. Heller, The Importance of Nietzsche
  - K. Jaspers, Nietzsche

- W. Kaufmann, Nietzsche
- D. Myers, Marx and Nietzsche
- C. Picart, Resentment and the "Feminine" in Nietzsche
- A. Ridley, Nietzsche's Conscience
- R. Schacht, Nietzsche
- J. Stern, Friedrich Nietzsche
- R. Solomon, Reading Nietzsche
- T. Strong, Nietzsche: the Transfiguration of Politics
- S. Warren, Nietzsche and Political Thought

FIRST REVIEW DUE: Friday, February 13, 12:00 noon

- III-A. John Rawls: Liberal Equality (February 17-March 12)  
Required Reading: A Theory of Justice (selections)  
Recommended: B. Barber, The Conquest of Politics  
B. Barry, The Liberal Theory of Justice  
A. Brown, Modern Political Philosophy  
K. Baynes, Normative Grounds of Social Criticism  
W. Galston, Liberal Purposes  
C. Kukathas, Rawl's Theory of Justice and Its Critics  
W. Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy  
G. Postolos, Justice as Fairness and Metaphysics  
J. Rawls, Political Liberalism  
M. Sandel, Liberalism and the Limits of Justice  
D. Schaefer, Justice or Tyranny?  
J. Wellbank, John Rawls and His Critics  
C. Wolfe and J. Hittinger, eds., Liberalism at the Crossroads  
R. Wolff, Understanding Rawls

III-B. Robert Nozick: Libertarian Liberalism (March 17 - April 2)

- Required Reading: Anarchy, State and Utopia (selections)  
Recommended: B. Barber, The Conquest of Politics  
A. Brown, Modern Political Philosophy  
F. von Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty  
W. Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy  
J. Locke, Second Treatise on Civil Government  
L. Lomasky, Persons, Rights and the Moral Community  
T. Machan, Individuals and Their Rights  
J. Narveson, The Libertarian Idea  
R. Nozick, The Examined Life  
J. Paul (ed), Reading Nozick  
D. Rasmussen and d. Douglas, Liberty and Nature  
M. Sandel (ed), Liberalism and Its Critics  
G. Woodcock, Anarchism  
J. Wolff, Robert Nozick

SECOND REVIEW DUE: Friday, April 3, 12:00 noon

- IV-A. Walzer: Liberalism and Communitarianism (April 7 - 21)  
Required reading: Spheres of Justice (selections)  
Recommended: S. Avineri (ed), Communitarianism and Individualism  
D. Bell, Communitarianism and Its Critics  
M. Daley (ed), Communitarianism: A New Ethics  
A. Etzioni (ed), Rights and the Common Good  
M. Glendon, Rights Talk

- W. Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy
- W. Kymlicka, Liberalism, Culture and Community
- A. MacIntyre, After Virtue
- A. MacIntyre, Whose Justice? Which Rationality?
- D. Miller and M. Walzer, eds., Pluralism, Justice, and Equality
- A. Mulhall and Swift, Liberals and Communitarians
- R. Rorty, Contingency, Irony and Solidarity
- D. Rasmussen (ed), Universalism vs. Communitarianism
- M. Sandel, The Limits of Liberalism
- I. Shapiro, Political Criticism
- C. Taylor, Multiculturalism
- C. Taylor, The Sources of the Self
- M. Walzer, Interpretation and Social Criticism

IV-B. Martha Nussbaum: Liberalism and Feminism (April 23 -May 5)

Required Reading: Sex and Social Justice (selections)

Recommended: Z. Eisenstein, Feminism and Sexual Equality

- J. Elshtain, Public Man, Private Woman
- J. Flax, Thinking Fragments
- E. Fox-Genovese, Feminism without Illusions
- C. Gilligan, In a Different Voice
- N. Hartsock, Money, Sex and Power
- A. Jaggar, Feminist Politics and Human Nature
- K. MacKinnon, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State
- J.S. Mill, The Subjection of Women
- S. Okin, Women in Western Political Thought
- R. Tong, Feminist Theory
- M. Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Women

FINAL REVIEW DUE: Thursday, May 7 12:00.