

History of Political Thought II (L32 392)

## Legitimacy, Equality, and the Social Contract

Fall Semester, 2014

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-11:30

Lopata House 211

Professor Hayward

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00, Seigle 232

Course Requirements

## Course Requirements

1. You must complete the readings in a timely fashion and participate actively in class discussions. Please note that, although the readings average fewer than 50 pages per class, they are often dense and difficult, requiring careful attention. To encourage you to prepare well for class, you are required to answer a few simple questions that will be posted in the “Announcements” section of the class Blackboard page, emailing your answers to me before you go to sleep for the evening, and in any event no later than 6 a.m. (This timing is important, not only because late answers will not receive full credit, but also because I will use your answers to help shape our discussion in seminar.) Note: You do not need to write a short answer before classes for which you write a blog post (see number 2, below.) Together with short answers, attendance at and participation in seminar count for 20 percent of your grade.
  
2. In addition, you will write at least one blog post (about 500 words long) for each of the four sections of the syllabus. The evening before we discuss the material you write about, no later than 10 PM, please post it under the relevant heading in the “Discussions” section of the class Blackboard page.

Your post should accomplish two things. First, you should summarize one of the most important claims advanced by the thinker whose work we are reading. You should paraphrase this claim, and also explain how the author advanced and supported it, and why you think it is important. Second, you should respond to this claim, for example by endorsing or critiquing it, comparing it to an important claim advanced by another political philosopher, or applying it to some political issue that interests you. (You might begin this second part of your paper in one of the following ways: *“I agree, because...”* *“I disagree, because...”* *“I was surprised by...”* *“I was struck by the difference between this view and...”* *“I was struck by the similarity between this view and...”* *“If we apply this view to...”*)

Blog posts count for 60 percent of your grade, i.e. 15 percent per post. If you write more than one for a given section, I will count your highest score.

3. In addition, at least once for each of the four sections, and not on the day when you write your own post, you must post a response to one of the posts written by your classmates. Your response should be clear, concise, and thoughtful. A single paragraph will do, and in any case your response to the response should not be longer than two hundred words.

Your comment must be posted to the class website no later than 6 a.m. the morning we meet. Please respond to a post that has not yet received a response at the time when you post, unless at that time every post has received at least one student response. In your paragraph, you should carefully engage what the other student has written. (You might begin: *“This post made me think...”* *“I agree with [classmate], because...”* *“I disagree with [classmate], because...”* *“I think [the philosopher / author of the course text] might reply to [classmate] by saying...”*).

Comments count for 20 percent of your grade, i.e. 5 percent each. Again, if you write more than one for a given section, I will count your highest score.

## Course Materials

1. Readings marked [E] are available for download and printing through the class Blackboard page. Please note: you should print out these files, mark them up, and bring them to class with you. We will frequently refer to the readings during class meetings.
2. Readings marked [B] are books you will need to secure. They are on sale at Subterranean on the Delmar Loop (6275 Delmar) and also available through online book sellers such as Powell's (powells.com). They are listed below in the order in which we will read them. (Please note: if you like, you can order through Subterranean online using this link: <http://store.subbooks.com/coursebooks-fall-2014-wash-u>).

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett).

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge, paperback student edition).

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract and the Discourses* (Everyman).

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge, Gregor ed.).

Immanuel Kant, *The Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge, Gregor ed.).

## Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

[E] = Article or book excerpt, online through Blackboard

[B] = Book, on sale at Subterranean

Monday, August 25:

Introduction and course overview

Manuel Roig-Franzia, DeNeen L. Brown, and Wesley Lowery, "In Ferguson, Three Minutes—And Two Lives Forever Changed" [E]

Tanzina Vega and John Eligon, "Deep Tensions Rise to Surface After Ferguson Shooting" [E]

David Nicklaus, "Frustration in North County Has Deep Economic Roots" [E]

Clarissa Hayward, "Is Ferguson Anomalous?" [E]

Brian Schaffner, Wouter Van Erve, and Ray LaRaja, “How Ferguson Exposes the Racial Bias in Local Elections” [E]

Wednesday, August 27: No class meeting – Professor Hayward away at APSA meeting

Monday, September 1: Labor Day (no class meeting)

Wednesday, September 3: *The Walking Dead* comic, Vol. 1, Issue 5, online (free) at <http://www.thewalkingdeadpdf.com>.

*Lord of the Flies*, ch. 1-2 [E]

## **I. Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Hobbes’s *Leviathan***

Monday, September 8: Hobbes, *Leviathan* [1651], Introduction, Chapters 1-6 [B]

Wednesday, September 10:

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 13-15 [B]

Monday, September 15:

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 17-19 [B]

Wednesday, September 17: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 20, 21, 26 [B]

Monday, September 22: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 29-31 [B]

Wednesday, September 24: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 32, “Review and Conclusion” [B]

Monday, September 29: In-class activity: The State of Nature Game (no new readings)

## **II. Locke and Rousseau on the Social Contract**

- Wednesday, October 1: Locke, *Second Treatise* [1690], Chapters 1-6 [B]
- Monday, October 6: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters 7-15 [B]
- Wednesday, October 8: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters 16-19 [B]
- Monday, October 13: Rousseau, *Second Discourse* [1755], Dedication, Preface, and First Part [B]
- Wednesday, October 15: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Second Part [B]
- Monday, October 20: Rousseau, *Social Contract* [1762], Books I and II [B]
- Wednesday, October 22: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book III [B]
- Monday, October 27: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book IV [B]
- Wednesday, October 29: In-class activity:  
The State of Nature Game, version 2  
(no new readings)

### III. The Social Contract and Legitimacy in the Political Thought of Hume and Kant

- Monday, November 3: Hume, "Treatise of Human Nature," Book III [1740], Part 2, Sect. 1–7, [E]
- Wednesday, November 5: Hume, "Treatise of Human Nature," Bk. III, Part 2, Sect. 8, 9, 11, [G] Hume, "Of the First Principles of Government" [1740], "Of the Origin of Government," [1742] "Of Passive Obedience," [1748] "Of the Original Contract" [1748] "Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth," [1752] [E]
- Monday, November 10: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* [1785], Korsgaard Introduction, Preface, and Section I [B]
- Wednesday, November 12: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Sections II and III [B]
- Monday, November 17: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals* [1797], Sullivan Introduction, pp. vii-xvi; Preface, pp. 3-7 / 6:205-6:210; Introduction to the MM, pp. 9-11 / 6:211-6:218; Introduction to the Doctrine of Right, pp. 23-26 / 6:229-6:233 and pp. 29-31 / 6:237-6:238.
- Wednesday, November 19: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, "Doctrine of Right, Part I: Private Right," pp. 37-66 / 6:245-6:284 and pp. 84-86 / 6:306-6:308 [B].
- Monday, November 24: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, "Doctrine of Right, Part II: Public Right," pp. 89-124 / 6:311-6:355[B]
- Wednesday, November 26: Thanksgiving break (no class meeting)

#### **IV. Conclusion: The Social Contract Today**

Monday, December 1: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 3-22 / sections 1-4;  
pp. 60-65 / section 13; pp. 90-108 / sections 15-17; pp. 150-161 /  
section 26

Wednesday, December 3: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract*, pp. 1-40 [G]