

History of Political Thought III (L32 393)

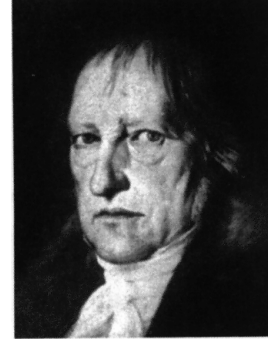
Liberty, Democracy, and Revolution

Spring Semester, 2013



Mon. & Wed., 1-2:30
Seigle L003

Professor Hayward
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Office hrs: Tues., 3-4
Seigle 232



How (if at all) should the modern state express and secure the liberty and equality of citizens? What is the political significance of private property? What does it mean to understand humans as rational beings, and how does this understanding of human nature influence political theory and practice? In History of Political Thought III, "Liberty, Democracy, and Revolution," we address these and other fundamental political questions, focusing our attention on canonical works from the late 18th and the 19th centuries, by Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831), Karl Marx (1818-1883), Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), J.S. Mill (1806-1873), and Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). This course is the third in a three-semester sequence on the history of political thought. Students are encouraged but not required to take all three courses. Prerequisite: One previous course in political theory or political philosophy.



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. **Class participation counts for ten percent of your grade.**
2. You will also complete weekly writing assignments and post them to the class Blackboard site. These consist in two parts, which will be graded as a whole. **Your top nine weekly grades count for 90 percent of your grade.**

The first part of your weekly assignment is to write a response paper, which should be clear, concise, and thoughtful. It should be one single-spaced page (normal font, normal margins), and it must be posted to the class Blackboard site no later than 5 p.m. the evening before we meet. Half of the class will write papers for our Monday meetings, the other half for our Wednesday meetings. (You will have a chance to let me know your preference at our first meeting, and I will do my best to accommodate it).

2a. Your paper 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.

2b. Second, you should respond to this claim, for example by endorsing or critiquing it, comparing it to an important claim advanced by another thinker whose work we have read, 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..."*)

Please create a thread under the relevant forum, put your own name and the name of the author whose work you are responding to in the subject line (e.g., "Tom Smith on Kant"), cut and paste your paper into the "message" section, and click "submit."

You will have the opportunity to write a total of thirteen response papers. This means you may "take a bye" several weeks during the semester, without having to give an excuse or advance notice. However, late papers will not count toward your nine.

3. The second part of your weekly assignment is to be completed in advance of the class meeting when you are not required to write a response paper. Your task is to post at least one, and up to three, responses to the response papers written by your classmates. Again, these should be clear, concise, and thoughtful. A single paragraph will do.

Your response to the response must be posted to the class Blackboard site no later than 11 p.m. the evening before we meet. Please respond to papers that have not yet received responses at the time when you post, unless at that time every response paper has received at least one student response. In your paragraph, you should carefully engage what the other student has written. (You might begin: “*This response paper 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...*”).

Please create a thread under the relevant forum, put your own name and the name of the student whose paper you are responding to in the subject line (e.g., “Mary Jones response to Tom Smith”), cut and paste your comment into the “message” section, and click “submit.”

Again, you will have the opportunity to write a total of thirteen response-to-response papers, so you may “take a bye” several times during the semester, and again, late papers will not count toward your nine.

Course Materials

1. Readings marked [E] are available for download and printing from Blackboard. You should print out the files, mark them up, and bring them to class with you. We will frequently refer to the readings during class meetings.
2. An electronic copy of this syllabus and important announcements are also available from Blackboard.
3. Readings marked [B] are books you will need to secure. They are listed below in the order in which we will read them. Please note: although these books are on sale at the campus bookstore, bookstores rarely stock enough copies of course texts. So please do not wait to purchase them, and then assume they will be there the week before you need them. Look for them well in advance and, if you can’t find them, go to another book store or order them online.

G.W.F. Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, ed. Allen Wood (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991).

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd Edition, ed. Robert Tucker (New York: Norton, 1972).

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, ed. J.P. Mayer, transl. George Lawrence (New York: Harpercollins Perennial Classics, 2000).
Swenson (Indianaapolis, IN: Hackett, 1998).

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

[E] = Article or book excerpt, available on the class Blackboard site

[B] = Book, on sale at campus bookstore

I. Introduction: What is the history of political thought, and why and how should we study it?

Monday January 14: Introduction and course overview (no readings)

Wednesday, January 16: Quentin Skinner, “Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas” [E]

II. Kant

Monday January 21: Martin Luther King Day (no class)

Wednesday, January 23: Immanuel Kant, “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose” [E]

Kant, “An Answer to the Question: “What is Enlightenment?”” [E]

Monday, January 28: Kant, “Perpetual Peace [E]

III. Hegel

** Next time spend two days only on Taylor, reading fewer chapters, and introducing some Hegel excerpts along with. Include the end of the Preface and some passages from Part I.

Then spend all four Hegel days on Part III only. 1. On the family (section 1). 2. On Section II, civil society.

- Wednesday, January 30: Charles Taylor, *Hegel*, chapters 1-2 [E]
- Monday, February 4: Taylor, *Hegel*, chapters 3, 14 [E]
- Wednesday, February 6: Taylor, *Hegel*, chapters 15-16 [E]
- Monday, February 11: G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Part I, sections (not pages) 34-104 [B]
- Wednesday, February 13: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Part III, sections (not pages) 142-256 [B]
- Monday, February 18: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Part III, sections (not pages) 257-279 [B]
- Wednesday, February 20: Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Part III, sections (not pages) 280-360 [E]

IV. Marx

- Monday, February 25: Karl Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” pp. 66-125 in Tucker [B]
- Wednesday, February 27: Marx, “German Ideology” pp. 147-200 in Tucker [B]
- Monday, March 4: Marx, *Capital, Vol. 1*, pp. 302-61 in Tucker [B]
- Wednesday, March 6: Marx, *Capital, Vol. 1*, pp. 361-84. 417-19, 422-31, 439-42 in Tucker [B]

V. Tocqueville

- Monday, March 18: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Author’s Intro., pp. 9-20; Vol. 1, Part I, chs. 2-(part of) 5, pp. 31-70 [B]

- Wednesday, March 20: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. 1, Part I, chs. (part of) 5, pp. 87-98; Vol. 1, Part II, chs. 3- (part of 5), pp. 180-199; chs. 6-7, pp. 231-261 [B]
- Monday, March 25: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. 1, Part II, chs. 8-9 (pp. 262-315 [B])
- Wednesday, March 27: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. 2, Part I, ch. 2, pp. 433-436; ch. 5, pp. 442-449; Vol. 2, Part I, chs. 1-8, pp. 503-528; Part III, ch. 1, pp. 561-565; chs. 9-10, pp. 590-594; ch. 12, pp. 600-603; chs. 6-8, pp. 690-705 [B]

VI. J.S. MILL

- Monday, April 1: J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. 1-2 [E]
- Wednesday, April 3: (No class meeting)
- Monday, April 8: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chs. 3, 5 [E]
- Wednesday, April 10: Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, chs. 6-7 [E]
- Monday, April 15: Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, chs. 1-2 [E]
- Wednesday, April 17: Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, chs. 3-4 [E]

VII. W.E.B. DuBois

- Monday, April 22: W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, I, “Of Our Spiritual Strivings”; IV, “Of the Meaning of Progress”; and V, “Of the Wings of Atalanta” (1903) [E]
- Wednesday, April 24: W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, IX, “Of the Sons of

Master and Man”; X, “Of the Faith of the Fathers”; XIV, “The Sorrow Songs,” and “The After-Thought” (1903) [B]