

SOCIAL SCIENCE III
Modern Theories of Politics and Society
Fall 2011
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Texts:

Hegel, *The Hegel Reader*
De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
Mill, *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women*
Marx and Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader*
Goldman, *Red Emma Speaks: An Emma Goldman Reader*
Luxemburg, *The Rosa Luxemburg Reader*
Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
Sartre, *Essays in Existentialism*
De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Readings in Modern Economics Reprints

Course Description:

Social Science 3 explores and critiques the modern world through an examination of major social scientific works. These 19th and 20th century works suggest various ways of comprehending the social, economic, and political structure of the modern world. The course aims at a further understanding of the conceptual content of the social sciences and how such concepts have been applied in modern social and political life. Through this understanding we attempt to make sense of the conflicting dimensions of social reality.

Learning Objectives

* Demonstrate understanding of highly theoretical texts in the social sciences * Explicate the basic terms of nineteenth and twentieth century social and political thought * Demonstrate awareness of relations/connections between social and economic arrangements, political structures, and human interaction * Analyze the often conflicting dimensions of contemporary social reality.

Course Expectations:

Discussion: Good Discussion happens when careful preparation has taken place-- when participants come into the class with respect for the text and for one another. Bring in questions as well as opinions; be ready to modify your opinions if you are offered persuasive contrary evidence. A good discussion is not about defending positions; it is about coming together to explore meaning. Try to identify your own prejudice concerning authors or their positions as you read; a good discussion may either confirm or change your position, and it should certainly clarify it. Empathic listening, thoughtful speaking, thoughtful questions, and openness to the opinions of others will help discussion flow. A good discussion also depends on a group that learns, through the semester, to trust one another so that real intellectual and emotional risks can be taken. For this reason, discussion must go beyond any individual achievement and develop into

a cohesive group activity. The prerequisite of any discussion is prompt **attendance and preparation** in carefully reading the text. Good class participation presupposes, and should give evidence of, careful preparation. Students are expected to remain in class and taking breaks may affect the class participation grade. **More than 4 absences** is sufficient reason to fail the class, and all absences affect your class participation grade. Each lateness to class counts as a partial absence. Class discussion and preparation count for 70% of your course grade.

Written Work (30% of your final grade): All students will be required to complete a Research Paper (12-15 pages in length) in order to pass this course. This paper must be a polished piece of writing that uses, and evaluates, at least four works (books, articles etc.) of secondary literature on a topic that relates to the course. This paper will fulfill the College's research paper requirement. Colleen McCarroll, Director of the Shimer Library, and I will be available to help you through the process. Deadlines for submitting various materials for the research paper are indicated on the syllabus. No work will be accepted after the last day of classes, December 3, 2010. **Please note that to pass this course you will need to turn in a passing research paper by the end of the semester.**

Reading Schedule: The following schedule is approximate and students are responsible for keeping track of the specific reading assignments.

Fri Aug 26	DeTocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Author's Preface (pp. xiii-xiv), Volume 1 Author's Introduction (pp. 9-20), Volume 1 Part 1: Chapters 2, 3 & 4 (pp. 31-60), V1 Part 2: Chapters 2, 3 & 4 (pp. 174-195)
Mon Aug 29	DeTocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , V1 Part 2: Chapter 6 & 7 (pp. 231-261), V1 Conclusion (pp. 408-413), V2 Author's Preface (pp. 417-418), V2 Part 2 Chapters 1-6 (pp. 503-520)
Wed Aug 31	DeTocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , V2 Part 2 Chapter 8 (pp. 525-528), Chapter 20 (pp. 555-558), V2 Part 3: Chapter 9-13 (pp. 590-605), Part 4: Chapter 2-3 (pp. 668-674), Chapter 6-8 (pp. 690-705)
Fri Sept 2	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
Mon Sept 5	Labor Day: No Class
Wed Sept 7	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapters 3 & 4
Fri Sept 9	Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> , Chapters 1 & 2 General Topic for Research Paper has been chosen: Submit 8-10 sentences addressing what topic you wish to investigate, why it is of interest to you and what approach you plan to take.
Mon Sept 12	Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> , Chapters 3 & 4 Meeting with Colleen McCarroll: Practicum on Research
Wed Sept 14	<i>The Hegel Reader</i> Phenomenology of Spirit: Introduction & Consciousness. Sense-certainty (pp. 70-86)
Fri Sept 16	<i>The Hegel Reader</i> Phenomenology of Spirit: Self-Consciousness (pp. 87-92)

Mon Sept 19	<i>The Hegel Reader</i> Phenomenology of Spirit: Self-Consciousness (pp. 92 – 98)
Wed Sept 21	<i>The Hegel Reader</i> Philosophy of Right: Ethical Life (pp. 356-379) and also paragraphs 165 and 166 (photocopy)
Fri Sept 23	<i>The Hegel Reader</i> Philosophy of Right: Ethical Life (pp. 380-398), Angela Davis, “Unfinished Lecture on Liberation –II”(photocopy) Submit Bibliography of sources you will be using. Start reading them. Guidelines for Preparation of Prospectus (due October 11) will be distributed.
Mon Sept 26	Marx, <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> , “Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole,” pp.106 – 125
Wed Sept 28	Marx, <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> , “Theses on Feuerbach,” pp. 143-145; “The German Ideology,” pp. 147-200
Fri Sept 30	Marx, <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> , “Wage Labor and Capital” pp. 203 – 217; “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” pp. 473-500
Mon Oct. 3	Goldman, <i>Red Emma Speaks</i> , “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For,” pp. 61-77; “Syndicalism: Its Theory and Practice,” pp. 87-100; “The Individual, Society and the State,” pp. 109-123
Wed Oct 5	Luxemburg, <i>The Rosa Luxemburg Reader</i> , “ <i>The Mass Strike, the Political Party, and Trade Unions</i> ” pp. 168 – 199; “A Tactical Question” pp. 232 – 236; “Women’s Suffrage and Class Struggle” pp.237 – 242
Fri Oct 7	Dean’s Break
Mon Oct 10	Lenin, “What is to be done?” “The Immediate Task of the Soviet Government,” Trotsky, “Our Political Tasks;” Left Communists “Theses on the Present Moment” (In <i>Readings in Modern Economics</i> reprints packet.) Goldman, <i>Red Emma Speaks</i> , “There is no Communism in Russia,” pp. 405-420 Submit one-page prospectus (see guidelines).
Wed Oct 12	Goldman, <i>Red Emma Speaks</i> , “Afterward to <i>My Dissillusionment with Russia</i> ” pp.383-404 and “There is no Communism in Russia,” pp. 405-420; Luxemburg, “ <i>The Rosa Luxembreg Reader</i> , “Organizational Questions of Russian Social Democracy” pp. 248 - 265
Fri Oct 14	Keynes, “The End of Laissez-Faire” and Hayek, “The ‘Inevitability’ of Planning” (In <i>Readings in Modern Economics</i> reprints packet.)
Mon Oct 17	Friedman, <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i> In <i>Readings in Modern Economics</i> reprints packet)
Wed Oct 19	Freud, <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> , Chapters 1-3
Fri Oct 21	Freud, <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> , Chapters 4-8

Mon Oct 24	Sartre, <i>Essays in Existentialism</i> , “The Humanism of Existentialism” pp. 31-62; “Freedom and Responsibility” pp. 63-68
Wed Oct 26	Sartre, <i>Essays in Existentialism</i> , “Bad Faith” pp. 147 - 186
Fri Oct 28	de Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> , Author’s Introduction (pp. xix-xxxvi), Chapter I (pp. 3-10, 32-37), Chapters II-III (pp. 38-60)
Mon Oct 31	de Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> , Chapter IX (pp. 139-198), Chapter XI (pp. 253-263)
Wed Nov 2	de Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> , Chapter XII (pp. 267-268), Chapter XXI (pp. 597-628), Chapter XXIII (pp. 642-669), Chapter XXV (pp 679 – 715)
Fri Nov 4	de Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> , Conclusion (pp. 716-732); Judith Butler, “Sex and Gender in Simone De Beauvoir’s <i>Second Sex</i> ”(photocopy)
Mon Nov 7	Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> TBA First Draft of Research Paper Due: Minimum 10 pages
Wed Nov 9	Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> TBA
Fri Nov 11	Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> TBA
Mon Nov 14	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Chapter 1-7 (pp. 1-58)
Wed Nov 16	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Chapter 8-12 (pp. 58-96), Chapter 14 (pp. 101-109), (skim Chapter 13)
Fri Nov 18	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Chapters 17-20 (pp. 126-153), Chapter 23 (pp. 167-174) (skim Chapters 15, 16, 21 & 22)
Mon Nov 21	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Chapter 24-31 (pp. 175-230)
Wed Nov 23	Holiday Break
Fri Nov 25	Holiday Break
Mon Nov 28	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Chapters 32-37 (pp. 230-273)
Wed Nov 30	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Chapters 38-45 (pp. 273-325)
Fri Dec 1	Research Paper Due