ARTS & SCI 2A06 / MODERN WESTERN THOUGHT
2014-15

Dr. Louis Greenspan
Office Hours: Wed 2:30-3:30 or by appointment, UH-B114
Email: greenspn@mcmaster.ca

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION
Lectures: Thursday 14:30-16:20; Friday 14:30-15:20  ABB/163

Tutorials: T01 Tuesday 5:30-6:20 UH/103; T02 Tuesday 8:30-9:20 UH/103
T03 Wednesday 4:30-5:20 UH/103

T.A.’s
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to basic concepts that define modernity in the west in their historical context. We will cover the essential thinkers and ideas that were put forward from the sixteenth century to the present, from the Protestant Reformation, through the wars and revolutions of the twentieth century. Among the themes we will cover in the first term are: new accounts of freedom, the emergence of the individual, the modern secular state. In the second term we will cover the turbulence of modernity including imperialism, fascism, revisions of the concept of reason as well as postmodernism, feminism, multiculturalism and, of course globalization.

OBJECTIVES:
Students should emerge from the course with:
(1) An introduction to the ideas that define the modern west. (Individualism; Reason; the Nation State; Industrialism; Progress and its critics)
(2) An introduction to the thinkers who formulated these ideas.
(3) An introduction to the close reading of important texts.
(4) An introduction to the historical context from which these ideas arose.

Note: The aim of the course is to give you a rich understanding of the issues of our time. I have called it wine tasting. (Unfortunately I can’t speak with authority as my favorite drink is diet coke.) But I mean wine tasting that gives you a sense of downing a convincing swill of the beverage you are testing.

TEXTS:
Mark Kishlansky, Patrick Geary, Patricia Obrien, Civilization In The West, Vol. 2. Since 1555 (Penguin Academics), Text.
Mark Kishlansky, Patrick Geary, Patricia O’Brien Civilization Supplement. Text A. Coursepack CP

ASSIGNMENTS:
2 Tutorial presentations (10% each) Total 20%
2 Essays (15% each) Total 30%
4 Tests (5% each) Total 20%
Revision
Final Take Home Exam (due 15 April 2015) Total 20%
Participation Total 10%

Sessions
1. September 4
   a. Introduction: Organization, Syllabus Overview
2. September 5:
   a. Medieval Matrix
      Read: Text A: pp: 9-18; 23-7

3. September 11
   a. Aquinas
      Read: Coursepack: Aquinas

4. September 12
   a. Discussion Reason and Faith

**INDIVIDUALISM: SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS**

5. September 18
   a. Renaissance
      Read: Text A: pp. 18-23; 43-57, Coursepack: Pico, Machiavelli

6. September 19
   a. Protestant Reformation (1)
      Read: Text A: 73-8; Text: pp. 335-7

7. September 25
   a. No Class

8. September 26
   a. Protestant Reformation (2)
      Read: Coursepack: Luther Calvin

**THE AGE OF REASON**

9. October 2
   a. The Scientific Revolution
      Read: Text: pp. 385-92, Coursepack: Bacon, Descartes

10. October 3
    a. The Enlightenment (1)
        1. Read: Text pp. 428-48, Coursepack: Spinoza, Kant

11. October 9
    a. The Enlightenment (2)
        1. Read: Coursepack: Voltaire, Locke (on Toleration)

12. October 10
    a. The Enlightenment (3): Critique
        1. Read: Coursepack: Pascal (handout) Blake

13. October 16
    a. The Enlightenment: Determinism and Freedom
    b. Revolution and Modern Secular State

14. October 17
    a. **TEST 1**

**THE MODERN SECULAR STATE**

15. October 23
    a. Secular State (1)

16. October 24
    a. Secular State (2)
        1. Read: Coursepack: Locke–On Civil Society

17. October 30
    a. Midterm Recess

18. November 6
    a. Secular State (3)
19. November 7
   a. Nationalism

   1. Read: Text: pp. 516-24, Coursepack: Mazzini

INDUSTRIALISM

20. November 13
   a. Industrial Revolution

21. November 14:
   a. Industrial Revolution (2)
      1. Read: Text: pp. 471-84, Coursepack: Karl Marx

22. November 20
   a. Industrial Revolution (3)
      1. Read: Coursepack: Condorcet, Burke

23. November 21
   i. Class Discussion: Industrialism
   ii. Read Text:

24. November 27
   a. Industrial Revolution (3)
      1. Read: Coursepack: J. S. Mill

25. November 28
   a. Introduction to Part 2

SESSIONS: Term 2

1. January 8
   a. Dostoevsky, Modernism
      1. Read: Coursepack: Dostoevsky

2. January 9
   a. TEST 2

3. January 15
   a. The Second Scientific Revolution
      1. Read: Text: pp. 553-8, Podcast: TBA

4. January 16
   a. Class Discussion: Reason as Science

5. January 22
   a. Imperialism, World War 1
      1. Read: Text: pp. 564-76, Coursepack: Freud

6. January 23
   a. Racism Fascism
      i. Read:
         1. Coursepack: Fascism

7. January 29
   a. World War 2

8. January 30
   a. Class Discussion: The Twentieth Century

9. February 5
   a. The End of Ideology
      1. Read: Text: pp. 664-73, Coursepack: Daniel Bell

10. February 6
    a. TEST 3
11. February 12  
   a. The Iron Cage  
      1. Read: Coursepack: *Nietzsche*

12. February 13  
   a. The Iron Cage (2)  
      1. Read: Coursepack: *Foucault*

13. February 20  
   a. Midterm Recess

**IDENTITIES**

14. February 26  
   a. Feminism  
      1. Read: Coursepack: *Simone de Beauvoir*

15. February 27  
   a. Class Discussion: Feminism Now

16. March 5  
   a. Multiculturalism  
      1. Read: Coursepack: *Fish, Walzer*

17. March 6  
   a. Multiculturalism Now

18. March 12  
   a. Globalization  
      1. Read: TBA

19. March 13  
   a. Class Discussion: Globalization

20. March 19  
   a. Religious Resurgence  
      1. Read: Coursepack: *Berger*

21. March 20  
   a. Class Discussion: Religion Today

22. March 26  
   a. Individualism  
      i. Video: Commanding Height  
         1. Read: Coursepack: *Hayek, Dewey*

23. March 27  
   a. **TEST 4**

24. April 2  
   a. Individualism Today

**LATE PENALTY**

Students are expected to hand in all assignments on the specified due dates. Late submissions will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day.

**A NOTE ABOUT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:
The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Note The above outline of activities and the Marking Scheme are for general guidance only. The instructor reserves the right to modify parts of either as circumstances may dictate.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)
This is an on-line, self-reporting tool for students to report absences due to minor medical situations that last up to 5 days and to request accommodation for any missed academic work that is worth less than 30% of the final grade. Please note that this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. It is the prerogative of the instructor to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work. You may submit a maximum of one request per term. The form should be filled out immediately when you are about to return to class after your absence. It is your responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (within two working days) about the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent for more than 5 days, have missed academic work worth 30% or more, or exceed one request per term, you must see Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program office (C-105). You will be required to provide supporting documentation.

Email Contact and Student Responsibility Statement
Please Note:
“The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.” I will make announcements in class and by using the course email distribution list <eg: d-as2A06>.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

RETURN OF GRADES
In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:
1. direct return of materials to students in class;
2. return of materials to students during office hours;
3. students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail; and,
4. submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.