ARTSSCI 2A06/SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT 2015-16

Dr. Louis Greenspan & Dr. Matthew Grellette
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CLASS TIME AND LOCATION
Lectures: Tuesday: 11:30-12:20   ABB/165
           Thursday 11:30-13:20  ABB/165

T.A.’s
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
An introduction to basic concepts that define modernity in the west and 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 and industrialism. 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 O’Brien Civilization Supplement. (Text A).
Coursepack. (CP).

ASSIGNMENTS
2 Essays- 1500 words each (15% Each)  Total 30%
(due dates  Nov.17, April 7)
Discussion Posts  Total 10%
4 Tests (7.5 Each)  Total 30%
Final  Total 30%
READING/LECTURE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND
1. September 8
   Lecture: Introduction- Organization, Syllabus Overview

2. September 10
   Lecture: Medieval Matrix - Aquinas
   i) Readings: Text A: pg. 9-18, 23-27
                  CP: Aquinas

3. September 15
   Discussion: Aquinas-then and now

INDIVIDUALISM: SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS
4. September 17
   Lecture: Renaissance – Pico, Machiavelli
   i) Readings: Text: pg. 335-337
                  Text A: pg. 18-23, 43-57, 73-78
                  CP: Pico, Machiavelli

5. September 22
   Discussion: Machiavelli realism then and now

6. September 24
   Lecture: Protestant Reformation – Luther, Calvin
   i) Readings: CP: Luther, Calvin

7. September 29
   Discussion: Luther and Calvin_then and now

THE AGE OF REASON
8. October 1
   Lecture: The Scientific Revolution- Bacon, Descartes
   i) Readings: Text: pg. 385-392
                  CP: Bacon, Descartes

9. October 6
   Discussion: Bacon and Descartes in our time

10. October 8
    Lecture: The Enlightenment- Locke, Voltaire
               i) Readings: CP: Locke, Voltaire
Reading Week

11. October 20
   Discussion: Religious: Toleration in our time

12. October 22
   Lecture: Further Thoughts on the Enlightenment- Spinoza, Kant, Pascal i)
   Readings: CP: Spinoza, Kant, Pascal

13. October 27
   TEST 1

MODERN SECULAR STATE

14. October 29
   Lecture: Considering the Modern Secular State – Hobbes, Locke i)
   Readings: Text: pg. 408-427
             CP: Hobbes, Locke

15. November 3
   Discussion: The secular democratic state today

16. November 5
   Lecture: French Revolution and Nationalism-Rousseau, Mazzini i)
   Readings: Text: pg. 449-465, 516-524
             CP: Rousseau, Mazzini

17. November 10
   Discussion: The State versus the tribe today

INDUSTRIALISM

18. November 12
   Lecture: Industrial Revolution- Smith, Marx i)
   Readings: Text: pg. 471-494
             CP: Smith, Marx

19. November 17
   Discussion: Industrial revolution or revolutions today

20. November 19
    Lecture: Industrialism- Condorcet, Burke
    i) Readings: CP: Condorcet, Burke

21. November 24
    Discussion: Does Progress Make any Sense?
22. November 26  
Lecture: Further thoughts on industrialism - J.S. Mill i)  
Readings: CP: J.S. Mill

23. December 1  
TEST 2

24. December 3  
Lecture: Overview & Summary of First Semester

25. December 8  
Discussion: Mid-Term Questions

Winter Break

VERTIGO

26. January 5  
Discussion: Are we still in the Age of Reason?

27. January 7  
Lecture: Romanticism: Questioning the Age of Reason - Dostoevsky i)  
Readings: CP: Dostoevsky

28. January 12  
Discussion: Introduction to the 20th Century

29. January 14  
Lecture: The Second Scientific Revolution - Darwin i)  
Readings: Text: pg. 554-576  
CP: Darwin

30. January 19  
Discussion: Is Science true?

31. January 21  
Lecture: Imperialism, Fascism, and Racism i)  
Readings: CP: Perry

32. January 26  
Discussion: Is Fascism a product of modernity

33. January 28  
Lecture: World Wars and Aftermath  
i) Readings: CP: Fukuyama
34. February 2
   Discussion: The Century of Total War

35. February 4
   Lecture: Banality of Evil
   i) Readings: TBA

36. February 9
   TEST 3

37. February 11
   Lecture: Recovery- Bell
   i) Readings: Text: pg. 664-673
               CP: Bell

   Reading Week

38. February 23
   Discussion: Is the age of ideology over?

39. February 25
   Lecture: Iron Cage- Nietzsche, Foucault
   i) Readings: CP: Nietzsche, Foucault

40. March 1
   Discussion: Is the digital society a tyranny?

IDENTITIES
41. March 3
   Lecture: Feminism- Beauvoir
   i) Readings: CP: Beauvoir

42. March 8
   Discussion: Feminism Now

43. March 10
   Lecture: Multiculturalism– Waltzer, Fish
   i) Readings: CP: Waltzer, Fish

44. March 15
   Discussion: Does Multiculturalism Create Ghettos?

45. March 17
   Lecture: Globalization- Macluhan
   i) Readings: CP: Macluhan
46. March 22
   Discussion: Globalization v. Tribalism

47. March 24
   Lecture: Religious Resurgence- Berger
     i) Readings: CP: Berger

48. March 29
   TEST 4

49. March 31
   Lecture: Individualism v. Community- Dewey, Hayek
     Readings: CP: Dewey, Hayek

50. April 5
   Discussion: Western Thought Now

51. April 7
   Lecture: Course Review

**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: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

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)**
In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please also see the MSAF statement on our website ([http://artsci.mcmaster.ca/](http://artsci.mcmaster.ca/)) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.
E-MAIL 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 e-mail and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.” I will make announcements in class and by using the course e-mail distribution list.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR 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 e-mail 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.