

Directed Studies: Historical and Political Thought

Spring 2023

discussion seminars:

David Bromwich	TTh 9:00-10:15
Tim Kreiner	MW 9:00-10:15
Lucia Rubinelli	MW 2:30-3:45
Dan Schillinger	TTh 2:30-3:45
Sophie Schweiger	MW 9:00-10:15
Stuart Semmel	TTh 11:35-12:50
Norma Thompson	MW 9:00-10:15

lectures: W 11:35-12:25

books:

- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*. trans. Harvey Mansfield (Chicago).
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley (Hackett).
- John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, ed. C. B. Macpherson (Hackett).
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*, ed. John T. Scott (Chicago).
- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, ed. Conor Cruise O'Brien (Penguin).
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, trans. H. Mansfield and D. Winthrop (Chicago).
- John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays*, ed. Mark Philp (Oxford).
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, ed. Gareth Stedman Jones (Penguin).
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, trans. Walter Kaufmann (Vintage).
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, ed. Jonathan Holloway (Yale).
- Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (Harcourt).

lectures and reading assignments:

Weekly lectures provide historical and intellectual context to help frame the week's readings and discussions. Attendance at both lectures and seminars is required. Reading assignments for each discussion section are indicated separately, though your instructor may modify the focus.

1. week of Jan. 16

lecture: Daniel Schillinger on Machiavelli (Wed., Jan. 18)

discussions:

- Machiavelli, letter to Vettori; *The Prince*, dedication and chapters 1-14
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chapters 15-26

2. week of Jan. 23

lecture: Daniel Schillinger on Hobbes (Wed., Jan. 25)

discussions:

- Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, dedicatory letter to Buondelmonti and Rucellai; book I: preface, chapters 1-6, 9-13, 16-17, 26-27, 34; book II, chapter 2; book III, chapter 1 and 31
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, letter dedicatory, introduction, chapters 1-6, 10-14

3. week of Jan. 30

lecture: Stuart Semmel on Locke (Wed., Feb. 1)

discussions:

- (i) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 16-18, 20-21, 29-30
- (ii) Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 1-12

4. week of Feb. 6

lecture: Norma Thompson on Rousseau (Wed., Feb. 8)

discussions:

- (i) Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 13-19
- (ii) Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, dedication, preface, and part I (including Notes IX and XV)

5. week of Feb. 13

lecture: Stuart Semmel on American and French revolutions (Wed., Feb. 15)

discussions:

- (i) Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, part II
- (ii) Rousseau, *Social Contract*, book I, sections 1, 4-9; book II, sections 1-10; books III, sections 1, 4.

6. week of Feb. 20

lecture: David Bromwich on Burke (Wed., Feb. 22)

discussions:

- (i) *Federalist* #1, 9, 10, 39, 51 [PDFs]
- (ii) Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 83-135, 150-56, 161-72; Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen [PDF]

7. week of Feb. 27

lecture: Norma Thompson on Tocqueville (Wed., March 1)

discussions:

- (i) Burke, *Reflections*, pp. 172-93, 211-20, 245-56, 266-82, 339-45, 367-77
- (ii) Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. I, pp. 3-15; 27-32; 35-40, 43; 52-53; 56-58; 165-190; 235-264

8. week of March 6

lecture: Kathryn Lofton on Douglass (Wed., March 8)

discussions:

- (i) Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. II, pp. 399-400; 407-410; 479-492; 500-508; 535-541; 558-576; 639-650; 661-676
- (ii) Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" [PDF]

9. week of March 27

lecture: David Bromwich on Mill (Wed., March 29)

discussions:

- (i) Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 1-3
- (ii) Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 4-5

10. week of April 3

lecture: Timothy Kreiner on Marx and Engels (Wed., April 5)

discussions:

- (i) Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
- (ii) Marx, *Capital*, vol. I, part VIII (selections) [PDF]

11. week of April 10

lecture: Benjamin Barasch on Nietzsche (Wed., April 12)

discussions:

- (i) Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Preface, Essay 1, Essay 2
- (ii) Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Essay 3

12. week of April 17

lecture: Timothy Kreiner on Du Bois (Wed., April 19)

discussions:

- (i) Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*, chapters 1-5, 8
- (ii) Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*, chapters 10-14; "Souls of White Folk" [PDF]

13. week of April 24

lecture: Lucia Rubinelli on Arendt (Wed., April 26)

discussions:

- (i) Arendt, *Origins of Totalitarianism*, Preface, vii-ix; pp. 3-10; 123-157; 222-227; 290-302.
- (ii) Arendt, *Origins of Totalitarianism*, pp. 437-459; 474-479; "Personal Responsibility Under Dictatorship" [PDF]