

Directed Studies: Historical and Political Thought  
Spring 2024

*discussion seminars:*

- Section 01: MW 9-10.15 – Norma Thompson
- Section 02: TTh 9-10.15 – Timothy Kreiner
- Section 03: MW 2.30-3.45 – Christopher McGowan
- Section 04: MW 2.30-3.45 – David Sorkin
- Section 05: MW 2.30-3.45 – Winston Hill
- Section 06: TTh 2.30-3.45 – Daniel Schillinger
- Section 07: TTh 11.35-12.50 – Gregory Collins

*lectures:* F 11:35-12:25 HQL02

*books:*

- Niccolò Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings* trans. David Wootton (Hackett).
- 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).
- Frederick Douglass, *The Portable Frederick Douglass* (Penguin)
- 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 (**Thursday, Jan. 18, 4pm**)

discussions:

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

[Note: Monday classes meet on Friday; this week only]

2. week of Jan. 22

lecture: Daniel Schillinger on Hobbes (Friday, Jan. 26)

discussions:

- (i) 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
- (ii) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, letter dedicatory, introduction, chapters 1-6, 10-14

3. week of Jan. 29

lecture: Winston Hill on Locke (Friday, Feb. 2)

discussions:

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

4. week of Feb. 5

lecture: Norma Thompson on Rousseau (Friday., Feb. 9)

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. 12

lecture: Stuart Semmel on American and French Revolutions (Friday., Feb. 16)

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. 19

lecture: Gregory Collins on Burke (Friday., Feb. 23)

discussions:

- (i) *Federalist #1*, 9, 10, 39, 51 [PDFs]; Constitution of the United States [PDF]
- (ii) Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 83-135, 149-56, 161-72;

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen [PDF]

7. week of Feb. 26

lecture: Norma Thompson on Tocqueville (Friday, March 1)

discussions:

- (i) Burke, *Reflections*, pp. 172-95, 211-20, 245-56, 266-82, 339-45, 367-77.
- (ii) Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. I, pp. 3-15; 27-65; 165-172; 212-235.

8. week of March 4

lecture: Christopher McGowan on Tocqueville (Friday, March 8)

discussions:

(i) Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. I, pp. 235-49, 302-48, 391-96, 399-410, 417-24

(ii) Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. II, pp. 479-92, 500-14, 517-21, 558-76, 606-17, 639-50, 661-76

## 9. week of March 25

lecture: Gregory Collins on Douglass (Friday, March 29)

discussions:

(i) Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), Chapter I, 15-19; Chapter X, 53-71; "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (1852) 195-222

(ii) Douglass, "The Trials and Triumphs of Self-Made Men" (1860), 292-302; "The Freedmen's Monument to Abraham Lincoln" (1876), 364-76; "Woman Suffrage Movement" (1870), 491-94; "The Future of the Colored Race" (1886), 513-16;

## 10. week of April 1

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

discussions:

(i) Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

(ii) Marx, *Capital*, vol. I, part VIII (selections) [PDF]

## 11. week of April 8

lecture: Benjamin Barasch on Nietzsche (Friday, 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 15

lecture: David Sorkin on Du Bois (Friday, 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 22

lecture: David Sorkin on Arendt (Friday, 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]