Spring 2017 Professor Lloyd

Meets M 2-4:30, VKC 203 lloyd@usc.edu

Office Hours T,Th 9:45-10:45 MHP 205c

& by appointment

PHIL 337: History of Modern Political Philosophy

The course provides a critical introduction to the political philosophies of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, David Hume, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and John Stuart Mill. These philosophers innovated the social-contractarian and utilitarian approaches to political philosophy we use today, and provide richer systems of thought than do those who followed in their footsteps (excepting John Rawls). Understanding the history of modern political philosophy helps us to think about the questions of political legitimacy and social justice that concern us now. We will use a contemporary novel by George R.R. Martin as a tool for applying and assessing the political theories.

**Required Readings**

We will work from these texts in class so it is important that you use the specified edition and bring it with you to class on the days that work is being discussed. All required books are available in paperback in the bookstore; these are older editions (with the exception of Mill) and so inexpensive used paperbacks should be available.

Hobbes, *Leviathan* ISBN 0-87220-177-5

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* ISBN 0-915144-86-7

Rousseau, *The Social Contract and Discourses* ISBN 0-460-87357-1

Mill, *On Liberty, Utilitarianism, and Other Essays* ISBN 978-0-19-9670802

Martin, *A Game of Thrones* ISBN 978-0-553-57340 (NB: the HBO series dramatizing this book is not sufficient; the book is required reading)

Essays by Hume and other required readings will be provided on the course Blackboard. Supplementary recommended readings will be available on reserve at Hoose Library.

**Requirements**

Consistent, constructive in-class participation informed by the assigned reading (20%)

First midterm exam (20%)

Second midterm exam (20%)

In-class oral presentation with written handout on assigned topic [sign up for date] 20%

Final exam (20%)

**Provisional Schedule of Topics and Readings (subject to revision)**

Readings should be completed prior to the meeting in which they will be discussed. Readings for week 1 are posted on Blackboard and should be completed before the first class meeting. In any given week you should expect to be discussing a topic you have already read about, while reading about a topic you will discuss subsequently. It is important that your reading not fall behind the scheduled discussions.

Week 1: Discussion of current topics in political philosophy and survey of pre-modern Western political philosophy

*Read: Readings for the first class (BB); First half of Martin*

Week 2: No meeting (National Holiday)

*View*: *(film) Luther* (2003, Eric Till director)

*Read: Hobbes Leviathan (Intro, chapters 12-15, 17-18, 21, 29-32, 43, Review & Conclusion), continue Martin*

Week 3: discuss *Luther,* Hobbes’s project and method

*Read: Complete Martin*

Weeks 4-6: Hobbes

*Read: Shakespeare Henry V excerpt (BB); Re-read assigned Hobbes in preparation for the first midterm exam*

FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7: No meeting (National Holiday)

*Read: Locke Second Treatise (entire)*

*View: (film) Manderlay* (2005, director Lars von Trier)

Weeks 8-9: Locke

*Read: Hume essays (BB); Reread Locke in preparation for the second midterm exam*

Week 10: Hume

*Read: Rousseau Social Contract selections*

**SPRING BREAK!**

Weeks 11-12: Rousseau

SECOND MIDTERM EXAM

*Read: Mill Utilitarianism*

Weeks 13-14: Mill

*Read: Mill On Liberty*

Week 15: Course summary, overview and conclusions

*Read: Reread all assigned works in preparation for the final exam*

**Course Policies**

There will be no make-up exams or re-dos for missed oral presentations, so be sure to mark your calendar!

*No audio or video recording or streaming of lectures is permitted. Internet posting of course materials is prohibited.*

*U.S.C.’s academic integrity standards will be strictly enforced for all assignments in this course. Please be sure to observe all quotation and citation conventions. All written work must be yours alone. Please consult your Scampus guidebook to inform yourself of the details of these standards, and bring to me any questions or uncertainties you may have as to what they require.* *Any academic integrity violation will result in an “F” for the course.*

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

Plagiarism - presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words - is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards and Appropriate Sanctions, accessible here: http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/scampus/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See the university policies on scientific misconduct: http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety via either of these forms: http://dps.usc.edu/contact/report/ or "http://web-app.usc.edu/web/dps/silentWitness/". The Center for Women and Men http://engemannshc.usc.edu/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage http://sarc.usc.edu/ describes reporting options and other resources.

Help with scholarly writing is provided by a number of USC's schools. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://ali.usc.edu, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students.

Help arranging accommodation for students with disabilities is provided by the Office of Disability Services and Programs http://dsp.usc.edu

Emergency information will be posted at http://emergency.usc.edu. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, this website will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

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*Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776*