Spring 2022 Professor S. A. Lloyd

Meets: Th 4:30-6:50, CPA 160 lloyd@usc.edu

OH: TBD MHP 205c

PHIL 537: Seminar in Political Philosophy

This seminar in Early Modern political philosophy may be counted as satisfying either the history of philosophy requirement or the value theory requirement for the Ph.D. in Philosophy, depending on the character of the student’s original research. We will focus primarily on understanding Early Modern Western political philosophy in the social contract tradition (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau), and 18thC and 19th C. Utilitarian responses to it (Bentham, Mill). Using these classic texts as exemplars or as contrary examples, secondarily, we will investigate what features any adequate political philosophy must have, and why. A tertiary focus of the seminar is on proper methodology for interpreting historical texts, particularly for philosophical use.

**Readings**

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Curley, ed.)

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government, Letter on Toleration*

Hume, “Of the Original Contract”, “Of Government”

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, On the Social Contract*

Mill, *Utilitarianism, On Liberty, On the Utility of Religion*

Lloyd, *Ideals as Interests in Hobbes’s Leviathan* (Cambridge, 1992)

Lloyd, *Morality in the Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes* (Cambridge, 2009)

Kavka, *Hobbesian Moral and Political Theory* (Princeton, 1986)

Martinich, *The Two Gods of Leviathan* (Cambridge, 1992)

Supplementary readings provided on Blackboard

**Requirements**

Attendance and constructive participation in every seminar meeting (10%)

Oral presentations on assigned topics (20%)

Original paper 20-25 pages (double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font) on an approved topic, due no later than Thursday, May 5th at Noon.

**Tentative schedule of topics and readings (subject to revision)**

Week 1: How to interpret historical texts.

Read “Readings for the First Day” on Blackboard (includes Blau, “Interpreting Texts”, Warrender on Skinner, Martinich, “Interpretation and Hobbes’s Political Philosophy”; Lloyd *Ideals as Interests,* pp 15-16; Martinich “Four Senses of ‘Meaning’ in the History of Ideas”)

Weeks 2-5: Hobbes, *Leviathan.*

Weeks 6-7: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government, Letter on Toleration*

Week 8: Hume, “On Government”, “On the Social Contract”

Week 9: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

Spring Recess

Week 10: Rousseau, *Of the Social Contract*

Week 11: Bentham, Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation

Weeks 12-13: Mill, *Utilitarianism, On Liberty, On the Utility of Religion*

Weeks 14-15: presentations of papers in progress

**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.

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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.

*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*

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