

PHIL 144: Social and Political Philosophy

University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Philosophy
Summer 2015

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Lucas Fain
lfain@ucsc.edu

CLASS MEETINGS

MW 6:00pm-9:30pm
Social Science 2, Room 75

OFFICE HOURS

Cowell Faculty Annex
By appointment

Overview: With the introduction of scientific rationality into the intellectual discourse of the seventeenth-century, the European imagination envisioned new possibilities for an increasingly urban, cosmopolitan civilization. Advancements in the scientific mastery of nature and society offered to improve health, secure individual liberty, and increase material prosperity. Yet the very promises of the Enlightenment produced new fears that the celebrations of modern achievement reflected a naive optimism, behind which lurked more pernicious threats of political oppression, social alienation, and cultural disenchantment. This course will chart the vicissitudes of the modern Enlightenment through a study of foundational texts in the history of European political philosophy and social thought. The aim is to consider how several key thinkers have contributed to an ongoing debate about the nature of modern progress, and our goal is to ask whether the ideals and ambitions of the Enlightenment have produced conditions conducive to the realization of human freedom, or whether these same ideals and ambitions have produced the conditions for unyielding social domination. Authors will include Hobbes, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Weber, and Foucault.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course. However, some familiarity with ancient and modern philosophy or European intellectual history will help you to contextualize the readings and issues of this course.

Readings: The texts are the foundation of the course. If you like to read and discuss challenging theoretical works, you are likely to succeed in this class. That said, the material is dense, difficult, and highly idiomatic. It therefore requires you to practice “slow reading,” which takes time, concentration, patience, and reflection. You will get more out of the lectures if your reading is completed *before* coming to class. Please come to class equipped with the texts assigned for that day.

Required Texts:

All readings are either available for purchase at the Bay Tree Bookstore or uploaded to ecommons.

Foucault, M. *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (Vintage): ISBN: 9780679752554

Hegel, G.W.F. *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (Hackett): ISBN: 9780872200562

Kant, I. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals: With on a Supposed Right to Lie Because of Philanthropic Concerns* (Hackett): ISBN: 9780872201668

Marx, K & Engels, F. *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton): ISBN: 9780393090406

Rousseau, J-J. *The Basic Political Writings* (Hackett): ISBN: 9780872200470

Optional Texts:

Kant, I. *Political Writings* (Cambridge): ISBN: 9780521398374

Weber, M. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (Oxford): ISBN: 9780195004625

Course Requirements: Attendance is expected. Please arrive on time and prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. Students are required to complete all assignments. In addition to regular attendance there will be a short (≤ 1250 word) midterm paper and a longer (≤ 2000 word) cumulative final paper.

Midterm Paper	30%	Due at the beginning of class: Monday, July 6
Final Paper	50%	Due at the beginning of class: Wednesday, July 22
Participation	20%	

Participation is evaluated on the basis of evidence of your preparedness in the course. A lack of in-class participation will neither hurt nor help your final grade. Poor preparedness, coming late to class, leaving early, fidgeting with electronic devices for reasons other than taking notes or reading course documents, conspicuous eating, or detracting from the overall learning environment will negatively affect your final grade. Consistently excellent participation, preparedness, and collegiality may be recognized in your final grade.

Note on Electronic Devices: While the use of laptops for the purpose of taking notes or reading course documents is not forbidden in this course, it is *strongly* recommended that you do not use electronic devices in this class. This will help you to not only avoid distractions, it will also allow you to easily flip back and forth between pages and annotate your texts. There are several PDFs assigned in this class. It is recommended that you print, read, and annotate hardcopies of these texts.

Evaluation of Written Work: Assessment in this course will take the form of an A-NP letter grade. The following standards will be applied to written work in this course:

A: Excellent work, with clear, challenging, original ideas supported by sufficient, appropriate, logically interpreted evidence. The essay should engage the reader in the inquiry, convincingly answer opposing views, be well organized, and free of significant flaws. An ‘A’ paper should be not just good but outstanding in ideas and presentation.

B: Good to very good work, with a clear thesis supported by sufficient, appropriate evidence, organized and interpreted logically. The ‘B’ paper may have some outstanding qualities but be marked by significant flaws which keep it from being an ‘A’; or it may be all-around good work, free of major problems but lacking the deeper insight necessary for excellence.

C: Satisfactory work, but not yet good. The ‘C’ paper meets the basic requirements of a thesis supported by interpretation of specific evidence, but it needs work in thinking and/or presentation. There may be a lack of clarity, the evidence may not always be sufficient and appropriate, or the interpretation may have logical flaws. The essay may have organizational or mechanical problems that

keep it from being good. The 'C' paper may be good in some respects but poor in others, or it may simply be adequate but not noteworthy overall.

D: Barely passing work that shows effort but is so marred by serious problems that it cannot be considered a satisfactory paper. Papers without a readily identifiable thesis are liable to be graded 'D'.

No Pass: Failing work—for example, a hasty, sloppy paper that shows little or no thought, effort, or familiarity with the text.

Late papers will receive 1/3 grade deduction for every day late (A- becomes B+). N. B. Extensions for submitting an assignment will be granted only for medical reasons or on grounds of a family situation or disability. In order to obtain an extension, you must submit a request in writing to the instructor prior to the due date and be prepared to submit supporting evidence for the extension. The instructor reserves the right to specify the location for submitting late papers. The instructor cannot be expected to return late work in a timely manner.

Please Note: Poor mechanics detract from your grades, but good mechanics by themselves do not make a good paper. Sloppy grammar, punctuation, and spelling tax the goodwill of your reader, which all effective writing is careful to respect. These problems won't be overlooked, since they affect the communication of thought. Your enrollment in this course implies that you have read and understood the evaluation criteria.

Academic Policies and Resources:

Learning Support Services:

Learning Support Services helps students find the resources they need to succeed academically. While there is no tutor specifically designated for this course, there are writing tutors available to all students; you should consider trying to use this service as you prepare to turn in the required paper. Learning Support Services are free of charge. For more information, please see: <http://www2.ucsc.edu/lss/>

Accessibility and Disabilities:

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g., office hours) during the first week of the course. Contact the DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), or <http://drc.ucsc.edu> for more information on the requirements and/or process, or if you would like more information about the center. You are not obligated to use DRC services if you contact them, all information is confidential, and services are free of charge.

Academic Integrity: Familiarize yourself with the University's principles, policies, and procedures regarding breaches of academic integrity. These can be found on the "academic integrity" website at: https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity

If you are unsure about anything that you read on this website, or what is acceptable or not acceptable in completing assignments for this course, please come and see me. No offenses against standards of academic integrity will be tolerated. Typically, if a plagiarism case or another case violating academic integrity seems to me to be clear cut, it will be processed through the University's system and the academic penalty of failure in the class will be imposed.

Course Modification Statement: The instructor and University reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. Under exigent circumstances, the University may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to regularly check UCSC email and course websites during the term in order to note any changes.

Assignment Sequence:

WEEK 1

Monday, June 22

Thomas Hobbes: The Scientific Enlightenment in Politics

Hobbes, *Elements of Law*, Book II, Ch.10, §8

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chs. 13, 14, 15

Wednesday, June 24

Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Critique of the Enlightenment

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*. *Basic Political Writings*, pp. 1-21

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. *Basic Political Writings*, pp. 25-81

WEEK 2

Monday, June 29

Rousseau and Kant: From the General Will to Rational Autonomy

Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*. *Basic Political Writings*, pp. 141-227

Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 1-62 (esp. pp. 1-17, 20-44)

Wednesday, July 1

Immanuel Kant: Defending the Enlightenment

Kant, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose." *Political Writings*, pp. 41-53

Kant, "An Answer to the Question: 'What is Enlightenment.'" *Political Writings*, pp. 54-60

Kant, "On the Common Saying: 'This May Be True in Theory, But it Does Not Apply in Practice.'" *Political Writings*, pp. 61-92

WEEK 3

Monday, July 6: MIDTERM PAPER DUE

Benjamin Constant and G.W.F. Hegel: The End of History

Constant, "The Liberty of the Ancients Compared to the Moderns." *Political Writings*, pp. 309-328

Hegel, "The Master-Slave Dialectic." *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §§178-196

Kojève, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*, pp. 38-41

Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History with an Appendix from the Philosophy of Right*, all (esp. pp. 12-82)

Wednesday, July 8

Karl Marx: The Critique of Capitalist Society

The Marx-Engels Reader

Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 143-145

Marx, "On the Jewish Question," pp. 26-52

Marx, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844," pp. 70-105

Recommended:

Marx, "A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's 'Philosophy of Right,'" pp. 53-65.

Marx, "1872 Amsterdam Speech," pp. 522-524

Marx, "Critique of the Gotha Program," pp. 525-541

Marx and Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, pp. 473-491

Marx, *Capital*, Volume One, pp. 294-438

WEEK 4

Monday, July 13

Karl Marx and Max Weber: Ideology and Bureaucracy

Marx and Engels, "The German Ideology," pp. 146-200

Weber: Selected Essays:

"Bureaucracy." *From Max Weber*, pp. 196-244

"The Profession and Vocation of Politics." *Political Writings*, 309-369

Recommended:

Weber: Selected Essays:

"Socialism." *Political Writings*, pp. 272-303

"Meaning of Discipline." *From Max Weber*, pp. 253-264

"On the Situation of Constitutional Democracy in Russia." *Political Writings*, pp. 29-74 (esp. pp. 63-74)

"Charismatic Authority." *From Max Weber*, pp. 245-252

Wednesday, July 15

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno: The Self-Destruction of Enlightenment

Horkheimer, "Traditional and Critical Theory." *Critical Theory*, pp. 188-252

Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. "Preface and Introduction," ix-xvii; "Concept of Enlightenment," 3-42; "The Culture Industry," pp. 120-167

WEEK 5

Monday, July 20

Michel Foucault: Domination and Transgression

Foucault, "What Is Enlightenment?" *The Foucault Reader*, pp. 32-50
Foucault, *Discipline & Punish*. Parts 1, 3 & 4, pp. 3-72, 135-308

Recommended:

Foucault, Selection on "Power" from *The History of Sexuality, vol. I*, pp. 92-96
Foucault, "Two Lectures" in *Power/Knowledge*, pp. 78-108

Wednesday, July 22: FINAL PAPER DUE