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Syllabus

Left, Right, and Center

PoliSci 275 Fall 2021

Professor: Michael Hawley

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Office: Gross Hall 294B

Office Hours: Wednesday 5:00-6:30, or by appointment (in person or virtual)

TA/Grader: Jihyun Jeong

Course Description:

Since the late 18th Century, liberalism—a doctrine that prioritizes individuals and their rights—has been a powerful force in world politics. In this course we will examine a number of responses to liberal democratic doctrine in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, coming from a variety of perspectives—conservative (Burke), liberal-progressive (Mill), radical left (Marx), and what might be called radical right (Nietzsche). In addition to Marx's and Nietzsche's radical critiques of liberalism, we will also consider Tocqueville's more sympathetic, centrist critique.

Course Aims:

The primary aims of this class are those that go into determining your grade for the course. Most basically, you will gain an understanding of the questions and problems that surround modern left-wing, right-wing, and centrist political doctrines. You will hone your skills at reading difficult texts carefully and evaluating arguments. You will also improve your abilities in constructing your own written arguments, demonstrating your analytical skills, and expressing your ideas clearly and persuasively.

But there is another kind of aim for this course, one that will not be reflected in your grade. The thinkers we read in this class wrote not merely for their own contemporaries but for all time. They are, in a sense, addressed to you. They make claims about human nature, the human good, and the possibilities of politics. It is my hope for this class that our encounters with the authors we read will help you to think more deeply about these questions and to become more reflective citizens.

Course Books:

The following books are required reading and are available for purchase or rent through Duke's textbook partner or online. You may of course purchase books from other sources, provided you use the same editions and translations. It truly is important to get the same editions and translations; it helps keep all of us on the same

page (literally) as we discuss the readings and when it comes time to write papers. All other texts will be posted on the Sakai site.

1. *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville (translated by Mansfield and Winthrop)
2. *On Liberty and Other Writings*, John Stuart Mill
3. *Marx: Selected Writings*, Karl Marx (edited by Lawrence Simon)
4. *Beyond Good and Evil*, Friedrich Nietzsche (translated by Walter Kaufmann)

Course Requirements:

You will be required to write four short papers (5-6 pages, double-spaced) on assigned topics. These are not research papers. The only texts you will need to write them will be what we read for this course. I will discuss the expectations and requirements for these papers at greater length in class. They account for 80% of your grade

The remaining 20% of your grade depends on participation and consists of two components. Half of your participation grade is determined by your contributions to the collective learning process of the class with questions, thoughts, ideas, etc. The other half comes in the form of online reading responses posted to the Sakai forum. These responses must not exceed 200 words. In them, you should raise a question, pose an objection, or make an argument about some aspect of the next day's reading. You are encouraged also to respond to posts by your fellow students. In order to count, you need to post at least 12 hours before class is to meet—I will read them before class and may incorporate some of them into our discussion. You must do at least 8 such posts by the end of the semester (distributed however you like). Both elements of participation will be graded holistically at the end of the semester.

With all of your work, be sure to follow Duke standards of conduct regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. Violations of these standards will be referred to the appropriate dean.

Course grade will be determined as follows:

Four Papers:	80%
In-class participation	10%
Forum Posts	10%

Reading assignments:

Part 1: Revolution and Reaction

Aug. 23	Introductory Discussion
Aug. 25	Declaration of Independence, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, selections from Thomas Paine's <i>Common Sense</i> (all on Sakai)

- Aug. 30 *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Burke: pp. 84-117 (On Sakai)
- Sept. 1 *Reflections*, Burke: pp. 117-129, 134-156 (On Sakai)
- Sept. 6 *Reflections*, Burke: pp. 160-178, 181-184, 188-203, 227-231(On Sakai)
- Sept. 8 *Reflections*, Burke: pp. 269-285, *Rights of Man*, Paine (selection on Sakai), Federalist # 49 (on Sakai) **Paper 1 Assigned**

Part 2: Liberal Democracy's Critical Friends

- Sept. 13 *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville, pp. 3-15, 27-45
- Sept. 15 *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville, pp. 45-65, 165-180
- Sept. 20 *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville, pp. 180-190, 212-214, 225-229, 231-249
- Sept. 22 *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville, pp. 275-288, 403-410, 417-428
- Sept. 27 *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville, pp. 479-484, 489-492, 500-509, 521-522, 640-645, 661-673
- Sept. 29 *On Liberty*, Mill: ch. 1, ch. 2 (pp. 19-36)
- Oct. 4 Fall Break!!
- Oct. 6 *On Liberty*, Mill: pp. 37-55 **Paper 2 Assigned**
- Oct. 11 *On Liberty*, Mill: chs. 3-4
- Oct. 13 *On Liberty*, Mill: ch. 5

Part 3: Marx's Attack from the Left

- Oct. 18 *Marx's Selected Writings*, "On the Jewish Question" (pp. 2-21)
- Oct. 20 *Selected Writings*, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts (pp. 58-79)
- Oct. 25 *Selected Writings*, "The German Ideology" (pp. 103-112, 115-131)
- Oct. 27 *Selected Writings*, "The German Ideology" (pp. 133-153)
- Nov. 1 *Selected Writings* "Communist Manifesto" (pp. 158-186)

Part 4: Nietzsche's Attack from the Right

- Nov. 3 Nietzsche: Selections from *The Gay Science* and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (On Sakai),
Beyond Good and Evil: preface,
- Nov. 8 *Beyond Good and Evil*: Part 1
- Nov. 10 *Beyond Good and Evil*, Parts 2-3
- Nov. 15 *Beyond Good and Evil*, Parts 5 and 9 (sections 257-260 only)
- Nov. 17 *Beyond Good and Evil*, Parts 6 and 8

Part 5: The Contemporary Left, Right, and Center

- Nov. 22 *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 7 (up through section 231), Part 9 (parts 261-274, 296) **4th
Paper Assigned**
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Break!!
- Nov. 29 Mill, *Subjection of Women* (selections); de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (selections);
Vermeule “Beyond Originalism” [All on Sakai]
- Dec. 1 Last Day! Publius (Anton), “The Flight 93 Election”; Robinson, “Why You Should be A
Socialist” (excerpt); Shklar, “Liberalism of Fear” [All on Sakai]

Paper Due Dates (all papers are due at noon):

Paper 1: Oct. 1st

Paper 2: Oct. 24th

Paper 3: Nov. 19th

Paper 4: Dec. 11th