

POWER, IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE I

Professor: Joshua Craze (joshuacraze@joshuacraze.com)

Intern for section twenty-four: Kelsey Robbins (kelseyrobbins@uchicago.edu)

Time: Monday and Wednesday 3pm-4.20pm for section twenty-four; Monday and Wednesday, 4.30pm-5.50pm for section fifteen.

Room: Cobb 409 for section twenty-four | Cobb 112 for section fifteen

Professor's Office: Gates-Blake Hall Room 305

Office Hours: Thursday afternoon, by appointment. Office hours will be held in Plein Air Café (in the seminary Coop bookstore, 5751 S Woodlawn Ave), where the professor will be found hidden behind a triple espresso.

You can sign up for office hours on the following Google doc (there is also link in the Course Documents section on Chalk):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OIzHRivqScZWjebZskdEk0uBtq5428OrEHevs7Ja-aI/edit?usp=sharing>

Kelsey Robbins also has office hours: Tuesday, 2 to 4 pm at Hallowed Grounds. You can sign up on the Google document if you are in section twenty-four (MW 3-4.20pm)

Course Description

This course is the first of a three-quarter sequence in the Social Sciences Common Core. The course as a whole will be, to distill the title of the German philosopher Karl Jasper's popular book, an *Einführung in die Politik*. Jasper's book (an *Einführung in die Philosophie*) is commonly—though appallingly—translated as *The Way to Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy*. The literal translation of the title would be, *An Introduction into Philosophy*. Note that this is different from an introduction *to* philosophy. Jasper's did not intend to set out the positions of various schools (the Neo-Platonists, the Neo-Kantians, etc.) or thinkers (Nietzsche, Heidegger, Deleuze), but rather to viscerally convey what it is to *think* philosophically. His book is an invitation to philosophical thought. This course, in an analogous fashion, is an introduction to thinking politically.

Some of the questions this sequence will deal with are: Why and when do we obey political institutions, and what grounds do we have for doing so? When are political institutions legitimate? Why do some activities count as labor, and others as leisure? How do we value objects and people? These questions underlie some of the most fundamental themes in political philosophy. In this sequence we will approach them not to find the definitive answer to any of these questions (as if we then could all go home and play on our Xboxes), but to learn how to ask them.

In the Fall Quarter we will focus on three of the most important figures in social thought: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, and Karl Marx. Their work seems at once very present (we recognize many of the terms they use) and very remote. In analysing the work of these three figures, we will return to some of the central arguments that occur in European modernity, as terms like ‘society’, ‘economy’, and ‘politics’ begin to take on significations that we still recognize in our world today.

Required texts

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. Translated and edited by John T. Scott. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*. Edited by Edwin Cannan. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics.
- Marcel Mauss, *The Gift: The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. New York: W. W. Norton.

All these texts will be available in the Seminary Coop bookstore. You must bring the text(s) under discussion to class. You **must** use the editions of the texts that are given above, otherwise it becomes difficult to share references in class, as everyone is referring to page numbers in different editions: (“How can you say that Marx doesn’t have a robust theory of value, read page 336!” “That’s the bibliography, dude”).

All other texts will be available via Chalk, in the Course Documents Folder. If the texts are on Chalk, then you **must** print out the texts, and bring them to class.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation (40%). Active class participation is essential. This doesn’t mean dominating the conversation, but learning a rare and valuable skill: how to think with others. It takes courage, perseverance, and seriousness. Which is all to say—you need to be committed to the class. Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot come to class, you must inform me in advance, or produce a letter from a recognized figure of authority (e.g. a judge, if last night went wrong, or—hopefully more likely—a doctor. Your aunt does not count). Lateness is not permitted.

If you have three unauthorized absences, you will fail the class. If you are late three times, that will count as one unauthorized absence. So if you are late to nine classes: you will fail the class.

You must come to class with your text, having read the text that we will discuss in class that day, and with a sense of some of the things you found interesting in it. These are great texts. Reading them takes skill. Please do your reading for class slowly, carefully, and thoughtfully. You must read these texts slowly: skimming them is not an option; you simply cannot understand these difficult texts if you skim.

As a rule of thumb, for difficult readings, such as Marx's *Capital*, you should be spending about twenty minutes on each page, slowly reading it, and pausing, to make sure you understand.

By **9am** the morning before each class, please post three paragraphs you would like to talk about in class in the Google document (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qJT8hOeZ3lkGZW20zxCPuNQ-HOpFaJimNgS2e4DM9m0/edit?usp=sharing>), following the formatting information given there.

2. Papers (60%). Over the course of the quarter, you will write three analytical essays. They should be precise exercises in formulating an argument, and weighing its worth, written in relation to the material at hand.

I will distribute paper topics about ten days before the due date. Your essays should be emailed to me at joshuacraze@joshuacraze.com by 11.59pm on the due date. Please write the question you are answering at the top of your essay. The document should be double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, with numbered pages, and your name on every page. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style to organize your citations. Late essays will be penalized by a grade the first time an essay is late, and two grades for subsequent late essays during the quarter.

If you hand in your essays on time, they will come back to you a week later, with substantial commentary. If your essays are late, they will not receive comments, just a grade. I will only give extensions for medical emergencies or bereavement, not because you have two midterms and three other essays, which is true of every other student in class.

Other Matters

No laptops, phones, recorders, etc. in class.

I will try to answer all email within 48 hours, but I normally only check my email at night, so please don't write to me at 10am asking for an extension for a paper due that evening. I cannot provide assistance with your essay by email—please come to office hours for that.

Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course and other actions as the university deems appropriate. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic honesty please speak with me and I will be happy to help

you. Further details on the university's academic integrity policy can be found at <http://college.uchicago.edu/policies>

THE WORK

Week One

Monday 28 September: Introduction. Peter Sloterdijk's *Rules for the Human Zoo* (available on Chalk in the Course Documents folder)

Wednesday 30 September: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*, Frontpiece, Dedication, Preface, and then pages 61-63; make sure you read all the footnotes for this book

Week Two

Monday 5 October: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*, First Part (up to page ninety)

Wednesday 7 October: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*, Second part (until page 117)

Week Three

Monday 12 October: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Political Economy* (available as a PDF in the Course Documents site on Chalk). **First essay set**

Wednesday 14 October: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: the introduction and book one, chapters one to five (pp.1-52)

Week Four

Monday 19 October: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: book one chapters six to ten (pp. 53-160)

Wednesday 21 October: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: book two introduction, and book two, chapters one and two (pp.289-350)

First essay due Sunday 25 October

Week Five

Monday 26 October: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: book one chapters six to ten (pp. 53-160)

Wednesday 28 October: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: book two introduction, and book two, chapters one and two (pp.289-350)

Week Six

Monday 2 November: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: book two, chapters three to five (pp.351-397); book three, introduction and chapter one (pp. 399-406); book four, introduction and chapter one (447-495). **Second essay set**

Wednesday 4 November: Marx, *Capital*, pp. 125-177.

Week Seven

Monday 9 November: Marx, *Capital*, pp. 247-257, 270-319

Wednesday 11 November: Marx, *Capital*, pp. 320-340, 429-491.

Second essay due Sunday 15 November

Week Eight

Monday 16 November: Marx, *Capital*, pp. 492-564.

Wednesday 18 November: Marx, *Capital*, pp. 588-609, 762-793.

Week Nine

Monday 23 November: Marx, *Capital*, pp. 873-926.

Wednesday 25 November: Marx, *Capital*, Marx, *Capital*, pp. 927-942.

Week Ten

Monday 30 November: Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*, introduction, and chapters 1-2. **Third essay set.**

Wednesday 2 December: Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*, chapters 3-4.

Final essay due Thursday 10 December