

POWER, IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE III

Professor: Joshua Craze (joshuacraze@joshuacraze.com)

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

Room: Cobb 101 for section twenty-four | Cobb 101 for section fifteen

Professor's Office: Gates-Blake Hall Room 305

Office Hours: By appointment. Office hours will be held either in my office (before 5pm), or 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-al/edit?usp=sharing>

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 could then all go home and watch television), but to learn how to ask them.

The spring quarter is the culmination of all you have learned thus far in PIR. You will repeatedly be confronted with authors who either directly deploy or directly criticize one or many of the arguments and ideas that you have read in the previous two quarters.

The logic of the political continues to be a central preoccupation. Much of this quarter will be concerned with the scope and boundaries of state politics, both inwardly regarding the self, its inclinations and its passions, and outwardly, regarding who is to be included within it. There

will be defenders and critics, as well as critical defenders. There are no answers this quarter: only questions and arguments. But you will be able to enjoy these arguments because you already possess a vocabulary and a set of categories from the previous two quarters that allow you to frame what is at stake in these debates.

Required Texts

- Friedrich Nietzsche, *'On the Genealogy of Morality' and Other Writings*: Revised Student Edition (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought) 2nd Edition (Cambridge University Press)
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*. Vintage; 1 Edition (May 2011)
- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, Grove Press, Reprint Edition

All these texts will be available in the Seminary Coop bookstore.

There is an additional text, which may not be available at the Seminary Coop bookstore, but that is easily, and cheaply, available on Amazon, which is:

- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, The University of Chicago Press, Second Edition, December 1, 1998. Available [here](#).

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.

When you are participating in class, it is important you reference the text in question when making your comment. *Where* does the author make the claim you are referring to? Additionally, comments in class should be part of a conversation: refer to what the last person said, and address them, rather than simply addressing the professor.

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 Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, 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 single grade the first time you hand in a late essay, and by two whole grades for subsequent late essay submissions 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. If you think you will submit your essay late, please let me know in advance.

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 March: Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Preface: paragraphs 1-41.

Wednesday 30 March: Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Preface: paragraphs 42-72.

Week Two:

Monday 4 April: Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Part B. Self-Consciousness, paragraphs 166-196.

*Additional reading: Jean Genet, *The Maids*.

Wednesday 6 April: Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Preface and Essay One.

Week Three:

Monday 11 April: Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Essay Two.

Wednesday 13 April: Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Essay Three. **First essay set.**

Week Four:

Monday 18 April: Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, Sartre's preface, and chapter I, 'On Violence' (pp.1-62) and *On Violence in the International Context*.

Wednesday 20 April: Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, Chapters II and III (pp.63-144).

Sunday 24 April: **First essay due.**

Week Five:

Monday 25 April: Martin Luther King, “Letter from the Birmingham Jail,” “Ethical Demands of Integration,” “A Time to Break Silence,” “Where Do We Go From Here?” “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.”

Wednesday 27 April: Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet,” “The Black Revolution,” “To Mississippi Youth,” “Confrontation with an “expert.””

Week Six:

Monday 2 May: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Volume I Introduction; Part Three Myths: Chapters 1 & 3. **Second essay set.**

Wednesday 4 May: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Volume II, Introduction; Part II: Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 10.

Week Seven:

Monday 9 May: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Volume II, Part III: Chapters 11, 12, 13; Part IV: Chapter 14, Conclusion.

Wednesday 11 May: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, Prologue, I: The Human Condition, and II. The Public and Private Realm

Sunday 15 May: **Second essay due.**

Week Eight

Monday 16 May: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, III. Labour

Wednesday 18 May: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*,

Week Nine

Monday 23 May: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, IV, Work. **Third essay set.**

Wednesday 25 May: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, V. Action.

Week Ten:

Monday 30 May: Memorial Day

Wednesday 1 June: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, VI. *The Vita Activa and the modern age.*

Thursday 9 June: Third essay due.