

POWER, IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE I: SOCIAL SCIENCES 11100, FALL 2014

Professor: Joshua Craze (joshuacraze@uchicago.edu)

Time: Tuesday and Thursday 10.30am—11.50am for section four, Tuesday and Thursday, 12pm—1.20pm for section seven.

Room: 110 Cobb Hall for section four | 101 Cobb Hall for section seven.

Office: Gates-Blake Hall Room 305

Office Hours: Tuesday afternoon, by appointment, 2-4pm. Office hours will be, perhaps unsurprisingly, in my office. You can sign up on the office hours page that I have made available on Google Drive. There is a link in the Course Documents section on Chalk. Or go here, for those reading the online version of this syllabus (available in the Course Documents section on Chalk):

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

Course Description

This seminar 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 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 then we 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: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Émile Durkheim. 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 (Available at the Seminary Coop)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, ed. Edwin Cannan (University of Chicago Press).

Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Liberty Press).

Karl Marx, *Capital*, Volume I (Penguin Classics).

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society* (Free Press).

All other texts will be available via Chalk, in the Course Documents Folder.

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 co-ordinate, 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”).

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, or—more likely—a doctor. Your aunt does not count). Lateness is not permitted.

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.

2. Papers (60%). Over the course of the quarter, you will write three analytical essays, focused on the three authors we will read in turn: Smith, Marx, and Durkheim. These essays will be no more than 2250 words in length. 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 a week before the due date. Your essays should be submitted by email by 11.59pm on the due date. The document should be double-spaced, in 11 point Times New Roman font. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style to organize your citations. Late essays will be penalized by half a grade. If you need an extension for medical reasons, you must contact me well in advance of the deadline.

Other Matters

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

I will try to answer all email within 48 hours, but I 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.

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>

Course Outline

Week One

Tuesday September 30

Introduction.

Thursday October 2

Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 1: Parts I-III, VIII- XIII (available in "Course Documents" section of Chalk site).

Rousseau, Excerpts from "A Discourse on Political Economy," (article published in Diderot's *Encyclopaedia* in 1755; available in "Course Documents" section of Chalk site).

Week Two

Tuesday October 7

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 9-19, 109-117, 127-39, 156-161, 212-218.

Thursday October 10

Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 50-66, 78-86, 152-6, 179-187, 227-234, 161-170, 176.

Week Three

Tuesday October 14

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. I, pp. 1-61.

Thursday October 16

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. I, pp. 62-132; 275-8; 351-371.

I will set the first essay question.

*Week Four***Tuesday October 21**

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. I, pp. 132-160; 474-95; vol. II, pp. 159-161; 179-181; 231-8; 244-8; 301-9.

Thursday October 23

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. II, pp. 75-8; 103-5; 122-40; 141-58.

The first essay is due.

*Week Five***Tuesday October 28**

Karl Marx, *Capital*, chapter 1 pp. 125-177.

Thursday October 30

Marx, *Capital*, chapters 4,6,7, & 8, pp. 247-257; 270-319.

*Week Six***Tuesday November 4**

Marx, *Capital*, chapters 9.1, & 9.2, 12-14, pp. 320-332; 429-491.

Thursday November 6

Marx, *Capital*, chapter 15.1-15.5, pp. 492-564.

I will set the second essay question.

*Week Seven***Tuesday November 11**

Marx, *Capital*, chapter 15.8 a-e, pp. 588-609; chapter 25.1-25.3, pp. 762-793.

Thursday November 13

Marx *Capital*, chapter 26-28; 32-33, pp. 873-904; 927-940.

The second essay is due.

Week 8

Tuesday November 18

Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, 'Preface to the First Edition': pp. 3-7; 33-56.

Thursday November 20

Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 57-104.

Week 9

Tuesday November 25

Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 116-180.

I will set the third essay question.

Thursday November 27

Thanksgiving Break

Week 10

Tuesday 2 December

Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 183-238; 258-274.

Thursday 4 December

Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, 277-319; 8-32 ('Preface to the Second Edition').

The third essay is due.