

POWER, IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE I: SOCIAL SCIENCES 11100, WINTER 2015

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: Room 106, Social Science Researching Building, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago, IL, 60637.

Office: Gates-Blake Hall Room 305

Office Hours: Tuesday afternoon, by appointment, 2-4.30pm. 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-aI/edit?usp=sharing>).

Course Description

This seminar is the second 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 Winter Quarter, we shall inquire into the tradition of political thought. Unlike in the Fall Quarter, the questions of social and economic organization will not be at the forefront of our inquiry, rather than will be seen—by the authors under consideration—as rather secondary to questions of political organization: what is required to bring men together, and what are the effects of the way in which men do come together?

Required Texts (Available at the Seminary Coop Bookshop)

- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy) [Paperback] (Gregor ed)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (Cambridge University Press)
- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Norton)
- Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*, (Mariner Books)
- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Grove Press)
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, (Vintage)

All other texts will be available via Chalk, in the Course Documents Folder. All the texts above, in case you can't find them in the Seminary bookshop, are also available in the Course Documents folder on Chalk.

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.

I will post questions about the text for the next class, to guide your reading, in the Forum sections on Chalk, each weekend—please write a brief response to the forum questions, and post it in the correct forum, **by the day before class, before 7pm**.

2. Papers (60%). Over the course of the quarter, you will write three analytical essays. 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. 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>

Course Outline

Week One

Tuesday January 6

Introduction.

Carl Schmitt, *The Age of Neutralizations and Depoliticizations* (in Schmitt's *The Concept of the Political*, and also available as a PDF on the Chalk site.

Thursday January 8

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 1-11.

Week Two

Tuesday January 13

Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, Chapters 12-16.

Thursday January 15

Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, Chapters 17-25.

Week Three

Tuesday January 20

Hobbes *The Leviathan*, Chapters 25-30

Thursday January 22

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters: 1-9.

I will set the first essay question.

Week Four

Tuesday January 27

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters: 10-19.

Thursday January 29

Rousseau J.J., *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*: Introduction and first half of the book.

The first essay is due.

Week Five

Tuesday February 3

Rousseau J.J., *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, second half of the book.

Thursday February 5

Rousseau J.J., *Social Contract*, Intro & Books 1-2.

Week Six

Tuesday February 10

Rousseau J.J., *Social Contract*, Books 3-4.

Thursday February 12

de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, pp 3-11; 31-77; 197; 205-214

I will set the second essay question.

Week Seven

Tuesday February 17

de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, pp 283-311; 365-419

Thursday February 19

de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, pp 479-493; 501-509; 581-587; 595-599; 610-632

The second essay is due.

Week 8

Tuesday February 24

de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, pp 785-834

Thursday February 26

Karl Marx, “1844 Manuscripts” “German Ideology” in Marx-Engels Reader

Week 9

Tuesday March 3

Karl Marx, “On the Jewish Question” in Marx Engels Reader

I will set the third essay question.

Thursday March 5

Karl Marx, “On the Jewish Question” in Marx Engels Reader

Week 10

Tuesday March 10

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, pp 3-45 (Intro + Parts 1-4)

Thursday March 12

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, pp 46-80 (parts 5-8)

The third essay is due.

Week 11

Tuesday March 17

Weber, Politics as a Vocation.

Thursday March 19

Discussion.