

Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West II

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the themes, questions, and concepts found in some of the core texts of modern moral, political, and social thought. We will consider questions including (but not limited to!):

- How ought we to strike the balance between individuality/independence/self-sufficiency and the necessity of interdependence?
- What is the nature or fundamental basis of morality? Where does it come from?
- How should a moral person behave?
- Where does authority come from?
- How should one respond to oppression? When, if ever, is violence or revolution justified?
- How are the social and political roles of traditionally marginalized racial groups and women reimagined in the 19th and 20th centuries?
- What does it mean to be free and autonomous? Who is able to be free and autonomous?
- What are the philosophical presuppositions of capitalism? Of socialism?

We will be reading these texts as primary sources in order to make larger conceptual connections with the overarching themes and questions embedded within them. It would be impossible to master any of the texts we discuss in the time we have to discuss them, and indeed mastering each text is not the purpose of the course.

Our aim is to engage critically with the texts and explore the ideas they contain.

We will seek to find what insights, if any, they can bring to our lives as well as ways that these texts and thinkers can enrich our understanding of the world we live in today. After all, many of these texts have helped build the contemporary intellectual and cultural world we inhabit. We will therefore be exploring the intellectual foundations of our world in this class, together.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will come to a critical understanding of key questions in moral, social, and political thought.
- Students will improve their persuasive and analytical writing skills.
- Students will learn habits and techniques of close textual reading.
- Students will enrich their understanding of the world and of their place within it.

Course Expectations and Grading:

Attendance is mandatory. Class may not be missed except in case of exceptional emergency, religious observance, or illness *with a doctor's note*, and the instructor must be informed as far ahead of time as practicable. Absences harm not only the participation grade, but affect grading of all other work as the instructor is less able to assess the student's understanding of and engagement with the relevant texts. Make-up work may be assigned for approved absences.

The format of the course is primarily discussion-based. The discussion is meant to be a collaborative discourse, involving the close reading of texts and addressing each others' thoughts and questions. For this reason, students must be prepared to participate every day. This means you must bring your texts to class every day, having read, annotated and thought about them. Naturally, this applies to online texts as well. This is a reading-intensive class for which the reading assignments will take up a good deal of time. Be sure to plan accordingly. Your participation grade will be based on your contributions to discussions and discussion board postings.

25% Participation

Participation is based on attendance, preparedness, and contribution to the class through discussion in class and discussion board postings (3+3 postings/3+3 responses).

5% Reading Quizzes

The quizzes are unannounced and designed to gauge basic reading comprehension.

10% Article V Convention Group Grade

In groups, students will develop and present to the class amendments to the American constitution and vote on them in a mock constitutional convention.

25% Writing Assignments

There will be a total of four paper assignments which are described below.

15% Midterm Exam

The exam consists of identifications and at least one essay.

20% Final Exam

The final exam will be identical in structure to the midterm, but longer.

Writing Assignments:

There will be four writing assignments, three in the form of conventional essays in response to a given question or prompt. The final assignment will be to revise one of the other assignments for resubmission and re-grading. The assignments require students to 1) demonstrate careful and close readings and understanding of assigned texts, 2) analyze and reconstruct arguments, 3) formulate and defend theses, and 4) demonstrate their ability to produce descriptive, persuasive and analytical essays.

There will also be a written component to the Article V Convention project.

Late papers will lose 10% of possible points per day.

Academic Integrity:

Columbia University is dedicated to the highest ideals of integrity in academia. Therefore, in CC, any instance of academic dishonesty, attempted or actual, will be reported to the faculty chair of the course and to the dean of the Core Curriculum, who will review the case with the expectation that a student guilty of academic dishonesty will receive the grade of F in the course and be referred to dean's discipline for further institutional action.

Academic dishonesty is defined as violations of the Honor Code endorsed by the students of Columbia College and General Studies at the end of the spring semester of 2013. The code includes a pledge and requires students to affirm a statement with respect to all assignments.

- All students are responsible for the following pledge: "We, the undergraduate students of Columbia University, hereby pledge to value the integrity of our ideas and the ideas of others through honestly presenting our work, respecting authorship, and striving not simply for answers but for understanding in the pursuit of our common scholastic goals. In this way, we seek to foster an academic community governed by our collective efforts, diligence, and Code of Honor."
- The Honor Code requires that for all assignments students affirm the following statement with their signature: "I affirm that I will not plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or give or receive illegitimate help on assignments, papers, and examinations. I will also uphold equity and honesty in the evaluation of my work and the work of others. I do so to sustain a community built around this Code of Honor."

Consequently, this affirmation will appear on all assignments and must be returned, signed, with all assignments.

Disability Services and other University Resources:

Also, Columbia and I personally are committed to making this an inclusive and supportive academic community. If you have special learning requirements or require an accommodation for a disability, please register with Disability Services to receive accommodation. Disability Services is located in Wien Hall and can be found at (<https://health.columbia.edu/disability-services>). For registration, see (<https://health.columbia.edu/getting-care/register-disability-services>).

Columbia has a wealth of academic, professional, and community resources available to students. These include health and psychological services right here on campus. If you have *any* need of them, please take advantage of them. Health Services can be found here (<https://health.columbia.edu/>) and Psychological Services can be found here (<https://health.columbia.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services>). Library resources, including the very helpful Quicksearch, can be found here (<http://library.columbia.edu/>). If you have specific questions about these or other resources, please let me know.

Required Texts:

- Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings: Second Edition* (Hackett)
- Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge)
- Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (Modern Library)
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Oxford World's Classics)
- Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Oxford World's Classics)
- John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford World's Classics)
- *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton)
- *Darwin Norton Critical Edition* (Norton)
- Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals/Ecce Homo* (Vintage)
- W. E. B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Norton)
- Gandhi, *Selected Political Writings* (Hackett)
- Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Grove Press)
- *Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (Vintage) (ISBN: 978-0307277787)
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (Knopf Doubleday)

Starred works (*) are not standard CC texts. All other texts will be made available through Courseworks.

Schedule of Sessions Note: Assignments may change; total pages for each day in italics and underlined.

1/20	Introduction: Kant on Enlightenment	1
1/25	Smith Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> , Introduction and Plan of the Work; Bk I (Chs. 1-3, 8); Bk II (Ch. 3, pp. 368-74 only); Bk III (Ch. 1); Bk IV (Ch. 2, pp. 482-5 only); Bk V (Ch. 1, Part III, Article II, pp. 838-46 only) <i>(76 pp.)</i>	2
1/27	Rousseau I Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , (Preface; All; Fn. XV on p. 117) <i>(54 pp.)</i>	3
2/1	Rousseau II Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , Books I-II; Bk. III Chs. 1-2. <i>(41 pp.)</i>	4
2/3	Rousseau III Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , Book III Chs. 3-18; Bk. IV. <i>(55 pp.)</i>	5
2/8	Kant I Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , (Preface, Sections 1-2) <i>(53 pp.)</i>	6
2/10	Kant II and Utilitarianism I Bentham, <i>Intro. to Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> , Chs. 1-2 <i>(13 pp.)</i>	7
2/15	Utilitarianism II Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chs. 1-2, 5 <i>(52 pp.)</i>	8
2/17	Revolutions! I Declaration of Independence (with drafts) (http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/compare.htm) Articles of Confederation, Article XIII, skim the rest (http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=3&page=transcript) US Constitution of 1789, annotated (http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html) Federalist Paper 10 Anti-Federalist Papers Douglass, "What is the Slave to the Fourth of July?" <i>(70 pp.)</i>	9
2/22	Revolutions! II Sieyes, "What is the Third Estate?," Chs. 1-3. Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen Robespierre, "On the Moral and Political Principles of Domestic Policy." Bentham, "Anarchical Fallacies." <i>(67 pp.)</i>	10
2/24	Revolutions! III Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> , pp. 3-22, 32-8, 47-53, 58-63, 75-79, 87-97, 105-16, 124-8, 135-42, 172-9, 195-204, 248-50. <i>(90 pp.)</i>	11
2/29	Wollstonecraft Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , Introduction, Chs. 1-3; Ch. 5 (Sections I, IV); Ch. 9. <i>(72 pp.)</i>	12
3/2	Mill, Taylor, Stanton, and Truth Mill and Harriet Taylor, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> , Chs. I and IV; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Address to the New York State Legislature;" Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I A Woman?" <i>(67 pp.)</i>	13
3/7	ARTICLE V CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION	14

3/9	MIDTERM	15
3/14	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
3/16	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
3/21	Mill I Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chs. 1-2. (56 pp.)	16
3/23	Mill II Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chs. 3-4. (66 pp.)	17
3/28	Marx Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” Part I, in Tucker (ed.) pp. 26-46 Marx, “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” in Tucker (ed.) pp. 469-500 Marx, <i>Capital</i> , in Tucker (ed.) pp. 302-12, 319-29, 344-61. (77 pp.)	18
3/30	Darwin Darwin, <i>On the Origin of Species</i> , Introduction, Chs. 3-4, 14 (44 pp.) Darwin, <i>The Descent of Man</i> , Chs. 2-3, 6, 21 (46 pp.). (90 pp.)	19
4/4	Nietzsche I Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Preface, Essays 1 and 2 (72 pp.)	20
4/6	Nietzsche II Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay 3 (66 pp.)	21
4/11	Du Bois I Du Bois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , (Forethought, Chs. 1-3, 6, 8) (63 pp.)	22
4/13	Du Bois II Du Bois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , (Chs. 9, 12-14, Afterthought) (45 pp.)	23
4/18	De Beauvoir De Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> , Introduction, Selections, and Conclusion (50 pp.)	24
4/20	Gandhi Gandhi, “Swaraj: Gandhi’s Idea of Freedom” (54 pp.)	25
4/25	Fanon Fanon, <i>Wretched of the Earth</i> , Ch. 1, “Concerning Violence” (71 pp.)	26
4/27	Foucault Foucault, <i>Discipline & Punish</i> , Part III (Ch. 1 [introduction and ‘The composition of forces’ only]; Ch. 2 [except ‘Normalizing judgement’]; Ch. 3, all) (62 pp.)	27
5/2	Review	28
5/6	FINAL EXAM	