POLI 300C Post Enlightenment Political Thought

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Simon Glezos

Course delivery: POLI 300C will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
The goal of investigating the political thought of the post-enlightenment period (which for our purposes will encompass the late 18th, 19th and early 20th Centuries) is to examine the foundations of the ideologies that have shaped the 20th and 21st. In a very direct way, the major movements, both political and intellectual, of the contemporary era have their roots in the thought of the post-enlightenment era, whether we are discussing Liberalism (in both its classical or ‘Neo’ variety), Marxism, Cosmopolitanism, or Feminism. An exploration of these earlier thinkers and texts give us a stronger understanding of the ideas and forces that have shaped the world around us.

Prerequisite: POLI 103 or 202, or permission of the department.

Course outcomes/objectives:
• Explore the foundations of ideologies which have shaped the 20th and 21st centuries
• Examine the early investigations of ‘progress’ and they give us an understanding of our own place within history.
• Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
• Through close reading of texts, develop analytical and critical-thinking skills
• Understand how these influential texts inform current political debates

Topics may include:
- Kant and Marx
- Progress
- Enfranchisement
- Liberalism

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.