

**Poli 300C: Post-Enlightenment Political Thought – Spring, 2019**  
**TWF 11:30-12:20**  
**COR B107**

Dr. Simon Glezos  
sglezos@uvic.ca  
Office: DTB A310  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:20, or by appointment

Course Overview

The goal of investigating the political thought of the post-enlightenment period (which for our purposes will encompass the late 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries) is to seek out the foundations of the ideologies that have shaped the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. 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 investigation of these earlier thinkers and texts can give us a stronger understanding of the ideas and forces that have shaped the world around us.

However, deeper than these basic questions of ideology, the post-enlightenment period also developed some of the major themes and concepts around which contemporary politics is organized. Most importantly for our purposes lies the question of progress. In the wake of the enlightenment, with its support of reason and rationality over tradition and superstition, came a shift in the way in which history was viewed. Against the feudal (and even early modern) expectations that the future would resemble the past, the enlightenment ushered in a vision of history that described a world that was progressing: philosophically, scientifically, morally, and politically. The different thinkers that we will discuss in this course each engage with the question of progress, providing their particular vision of the mechanisms by which history progresses, and the goal towards which it is working. An understanding of these early investigations into the question of progress can give us a better understanding of our own place within history.

Students will be expected to leave this course with a strong grasp of the central texts, as well as a general understanding of the post-enlightenment period and how it relates to the current political landscape.

Evaluation

The course grade will consist of three assignments; an in-class examination, a research paper and a final examination.

*In Class Exam*

This exam will be on Kant and Marx. You will have a choice of questions, although you will have to write on both thinkers. It is intended to show a strong grasp of the texts, as well as indicate some critical consideration of how they relate to one another.

### *Research Paper*

12-14 pages in length, the paper topic will be chosen from a list I will distribute (although you will have considerable leeway in terms of the actual direction of your paper). While the paper will focus on texts and thinkers from the class, you will also be expected to incorporate secondary sources and outside research on the subject. If you have concerns about how to track down secondary sources such as journal articles or books, please speak to one of our reference librarians, or to me.

### *Final Exam*

Cumulative, but with an emphasis on the second half of the course. Again, this exam is intended to demonstrate a strong grasp of the texts we have studied, as well as indicate critical thought about the ways in which they compare and contrast, and their broader implications.

In addition, though participation will not be formally graded, students who contribute to class discussions may receive bonus points. Students will not be marked down for failure to participate, although it is encouraged.

<i>In-Class Exam</i>	25%
<i>Research Paper</i>	40%
<i>Final Exam</i>	35%

### *Late Policy*

Assignments which are late will be docked 5% per day. Extensions will only be granted in cases of illness or family emergency.

### *Grading Policy*

For details of UVic's new grading policy, see <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014-09/FACS/UnIn/UARe/Grad.html>

### *Academic Integrity*

For details of UVic's academic integrity policy, see <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014-09/GRAD/FARe/PoAcI.html>

### Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

### Texts

Immanuel Kant *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*

John Stuart Mill *On Liberty and Other Essays*

Karl Marx *Selected Writings*

W.E.B. Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folk*

W.E.B. Du Bois *Darkwater: Voice from Within the Veil*

**Additional reading will be available on the course website**

### Class Schedule

#### Week 1

Jan. 8: Introduction

Jan. 9: Kant "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?" [8 pages]

Jan. 11 Kant "On the Proverb: That May be True in Theory but is of No Practical Use" [32 Pages]

#### Week 2

Jan. 15: Continued

Jan. 16: Kant "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent" [12 Pages]

Jan. 18: Cont.

#### Week 3

Jan. 22: Kant "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch" [38 Pages]

Jan. 23: Kant Cont.

Jan. 25: Kant Cont.

#### Week 4

Jan. 29: "Marx on the History of His Opinions (Preface to *A Critique of Political Economy*)" [5 Pages], "Theses on Feuerbach" [4 pages], and "Critical Marginal Notes on the Article: 'The King of Prussia and Social Reform'" [5 pages]

Jan. 30: Marx Cont.

Feb. 1: Marx "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844" [21 Pages]

#### Week 5

Feb. 5: Marx Cont.

Feb. 6: Marx Cont.

Feb. 8: Marx "Critique of the Gotha Program" [5 pages] and "After the Revolution: Marx Debates Bakunin" [3 pages]

#### Week 6

Feb. 12: Marx "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte" [27 Pages]

Feb. 13: Marx Cont.

Feb. 15: **Midterm**

Week 7

Feb. 19: **Class Cancelled – Reading Break**

Feb. 20: **Class Cancelled – Reading Break**

Feb. 22: **Class Cancelled – Reading Break**

Week 8

Feb. 26: Frederick Douglass “What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?”

Feb. 27: Mill “On Liberty” Chapter I [13 Pages]

Mar. 1: Mill “On Liberty” Chapter II [37 Pages]

Week 9

Mar. 5: Mill Cont.

Mar. 6: Mill “On Liberty” Chapters III & IV [36 Pages]

Mar. 8: Mill “On Liberty” Chapter V [21 Pages]

Week 10

Mar. 12: Mill Cont.

Mar. 13: Taylor-Mill “Enfranchisement of Women” and Sojourner Truth “Ain’t I a Woman?”

Mar. 15: Taylor-Mill and Truth Cont.

Week 11

Mar. 19: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, “The Forethought” [3 pages] and “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” [9 pages]

Mar. 20: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, “Of the Dawn of Freedom” [21 pages], “Of the Meaning of Progress” [11 pages]

Mar. 22: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, “Of the Black Belt” [18 pages] and “Of the Quest of the Golden Fleece” [21 pages]

Week 12

Mar. 26: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, “Of the Sons of Master and Man” [19 pages] and “Of the Passing of the First Born” [6 pages]

Mar. 27: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, “Of the Coming of John” [16 pages] and “The Sorrow Songs” [12 Pages]

Mar. 29: Du Bois, *Darkwater*, “The Souls of White Folk” [13 pages], “Of Work and Wealth” [13 pages]

Week 13

Apr. 2: Du Bois, *Darkwater*, “The Damnation of Women” [14 pages] and “Of the Ruling of Men” [15 pages]

Apr. 3: Du Bois Cont.

Apr. 5: Du Bois Cont. **Research Paper Due at Beginning of Class**