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

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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 18th, 19th, and early 20th Centuries) is to seek out the foundations of the ideologies that have shaped the 20th and 21st 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.

In-Class Exam 25%
Research Paper 40%
Final Exam 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. 30: Marx Cont.
Feb. 1: Marx “Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844” [21 Pages]

Week 5
Feb. 5: Marx Cont.
Feb. 6: Marx Cont.

Week 6
Feb. 12: Marx “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte” [27 Pages]
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**

**Week 12**

**Week 13**
Apr. 3: Du Bois Cont.
Apr. 5: Du Bois Cont. **Research Paper Due at Beginning of Class**