

PHIL 3330-A: Topics in History of Social and Political Philosophy
September 2nd, 2015 – December 7th, 2015
Professor: Devin Zane Shaw, Ph.D.

Class

Location: TBA

Time: Tuesday, 6:05pm–8:55pm

Office Hours

Location: 329B Paterson Hall

Time: Thursday, 1:30pm–2:30pm

Contact: Devin.Shaw@carleton.ca

Course Description

According to prominent accounts of the topic, the goal of political philosophy is to elaborate the conditions that make it possible to protect individual liberties and distribute goods fairly. The history that tracks the development of this task of political philosophy leads from John Locke to John Rawls and Jürgen Habermas. Without necessarily disputing the democratic ideal of this approach, we will study another persistent problem in social and political philosophy: the concern that social institutions emerge not from procedures of consensus and well-reasoned debate, but as forms of voluntary servitude. We will examine this other tradition of philosophical inquiry—which includes La Boétie, Hobbes, Spinoza, Rousseau, Hegel, and Marx—in order to consider the following questions:

- What is voluntary servitude?
- Is it significant that democratic institutions might have arisen from institutions originally dedicated to policing society?
- Are there forms of democracy that do not involve voluntary servitude?

Required Readings

I have chosen editions of the required readings that are often referenced in secondary literature. Students may, alternatively, use other editions if they are available. The following required texts are available at All Books, 327 Rideau Street (Hours: 11am–9pm, except Sunday: 12pm–9pm):

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*. Ed. C.B. Macpherson (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1980). ISBN: 978-0-915144-86-0.
- Etienne de la Boétie, *Discourse on Voluntary Servitude*. Trans. James B. Atkinson and David Sices (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2012). ISBN: 978-1-60384-839-8.
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Revised Student Edition. Ed. Richard Tuck (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996). ISBN: 9780521567978.
- Baruch Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*. Trans. Samuel Shirley. Second Edition (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2001). ISBN: 978-0-87220-607-6.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract and The First and Second Discourses*. Ed. Susan Dunn (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002). ISBN: 9780300091410.
- Karl Marx, *Capital*, Volume 1. Trans. Ben Fowkes (London: Penguin, 1990). ISBN: 9780140445688.

The following required texts are available via ARES Carleton Library Reserves:

- Miguel Abensour, "Is There a Proper Way To Use the Voluntary Servitude Hypothesis?" *Journal of Political Ideologies*, 16/3 (2011), 329–348.
- G.W.F. Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*. Ed. Allen W. Wood (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), Preface (pp. 20–23); §182–208; §230–249.

Evaluation

(All assignments must be submitted in hard copy)

Reader Reports (400–500 words each)

The student will submit two reader reports. Each report is worth 15% of the final mark. Each reader report will respond to one of the topics given in the list below. One report must be submitted between September 22nd and October 3rd, the other between October 13th and November 10th. Given that these assignments account in part for attendance, they cannot be submitted after their deadline without an excused (for medical reasons, etc.) absence. They are due at the beginning of class on the date of their submission.

Topics:

- Why, according to Locke, does an individual have the right to accumulate as much money as she desires? How is money different than other possessions? Due September 22nd.
- According to La Boétie, why do people submit to voluntary servitude? How can people resist servitude? Due September 29th.
- Hobbes believes that sovereignty by acquisition is as legitimate as sovereignty by institution. Why? Due October 6th.
- Why does Spinoza consider democracy to be the most 'powerful' form of government? Due October 13th.
- Proudhon argues that property is theft. Would Rousseau agree? Due November 3rd.
- Under what conditions is colonialism necessary, for Hegel? Due November 10th.

Essay Project Summary (750–1000 words), due November 17th, 2015.

The student will submit one essay project summary, worth 25% of the final mark. A project summary should explain the topic that the student plans to consider in his or her Final Essay. The project summary should include: (1) a short thesis statement, (2) a short account of the primary texts that will be discussed, and (3) an annotated bibliography of relevant secondary literature.

Final Essay (2400–3000 words), due December 21st, 2015.

The final essay is worth 45% of the final mark. This assignment requires that the student propose a thesis regarding the debates discussed in class and defend it.

Schedule

Week 1 September 8	Introduction
Week 2 September 15	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , Chapters 2–5, 8–9
Week 3 September 22	La Boétie, <i>Discourse on Voluntary Servitude</i> Miguel Abensour, “Is There a Proper Way To Use the Voluntary Servitude Hypothesis?”
Week 4 September 29	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters 13–20
Week 5 October 6	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters 21–22, 27–29, 31, 37
Week 6 October 13	Spinoza, <i>Theological-Political Treatise</i> , Preface, Ch. 4, 6, 15–20
Week 7 October 20	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts</i> and <i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality</i> .
Week 8 October 27	Fall Break, No Class
Week 9 November 3	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> Book I; Book II, Ch. 1–4, 8; Book III, Ch. 1–6, 9–14
Week 10 November 10	Hegel, <i>Elements of The Philosophy of Right</i> , excerpts.
Week 11 November 17	Marx, <i>Capital</i> , Ch. 1 (sections 1, 2, 4), 2, 4
Week 12 November 24	Marx, <i>Capital</i> , Ch. 6, 7, 10 (sections 1, 5)
Week 13 December 1	Marx, <i>Capital</i> , Ch. 26, 28, 32

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735