

The College of the Humanities
HUMS4000: Politics, Modernity and the Common Good

Prof. G.C. Kellow

Office: Paterson 2A59

Phone: 520-2600 X 2473

Office Hours: Fridays 2:00-4:00

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:05-2:25 (Paterson 303)

Tutorials: G-1, Fridays 4:05-5:25 302PA G-2, Thursdays 11:35-12:55 302PA

Prof. Erik H. Stephenson

Office: Paterson 2A49

Phone: 520-2600 X 1803

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-5:00

Course description

In the first term, we will treat the seminal event of the nineteenth century, the French Revolution. The French Revolution itself began in 1789, but its consequences, in politics, art, philosophy and literature fundamentally transformed the substance, promise and essential experience of nineteenth and twentieth century modernity. We will begin with the Revolution's early ambitions, captured in Abbe Sieyes' *What is the Third Estate?* From these hopeful beginnings we move on to Edmund Burke's remarkable and tragically prescient assessment of the likely course of the Revolution examining its larger significance as a resounding rejection of Enlightenment hopes for the triumphant rule of reason. Next we will consider two influential French political theorists of the 19th Century, Constant and Toqueville. These two meditate at length on the Revolution's terrible lessons for the France of the Restoration and Second Empire. We will look beyond the borders of France to consider the world the Revolution left in its wake, beginning with Hegel's historical/philosophical attempts to discern a Reason at work in the actions of Danton, Robespierre and ultimately Bonaparte. We will then turn to the four most powerful rejections of the world violently born in the aftermath of Waterloo, Marx, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard and Dostoyevsky. Finally, with Mill and Conrad, the course will consider the English speaking liberalism that owed as much to 1789, for better or worse, as it owed to 1776 & 1688.

In the second term, we will read works by Sigmund Freud, Martin Heidegger, Carl Schmitt, Jean-Paul Sartre, Hannah Arendt, and Michel Foucault. We will thereby become acquainted with many, if not all, of the major currents in twentieth-century, European social and political theory. Though the differences between these thinkers are in certain respects quite stark, strong conceptual and historical ties nevertheless unite them. In this term, we will focus on what is arguably their most important common trait, and we will examine all other aspects of their respective doctrines in light of this central, shared feature: viz., the fact that they *all* offered critical reflections on modern society and/or the modern project itself. Our primary aim in studying these figures will thus be to determine their respective conceptions of modernity – what they took to be its essence, promise, perils, shortcomings, etc. Now, some of the authors we will be looking at criticized modern society *from within*: i.e., on the basis of the very ideals and values at the core of the modern project itself (autonomy, tolerance, equality, and freedom of thought and expression, etc.). Others, however, claimed to be more radical, i.e., to reject modernity root-and-branch. In our study of the authors listed above, we will thus look to

ascertain whether those thinkers who claimed to seek the complete overcoming of modernity succeeded in taking up a critical standpoint *outside* of modernity. If they did, was this critical standpoint a truly *post*-modern one (having introduced something neither modern nor *pre*-modern), or did their criticisms amount to nothing more than a nostalgic yearning for the return of an idealized, pre-modern condition? Of course, this is to assume that the very distinction between the *pre*- and the *post*-modern is meaningful – something we will not do. Finally, through the prism of the ‘question of modernity’, various other crucial topics will reappear throughout this term. These include, *inter alia*: the genealogical critique of ideologies and institutions; the relation of theory and practice (or knowledge and power); technology; human nature; humanism; historicism; the nature of freedom and the conditions for the possibility of its realization; anti-juridical and/or anti-liberal conceptions of politics; and the analysis of politics as an extension of war by other means.

Course Requirements: The final grade of this course is based on the following:

- (a) Class participation (10%)
- (b) Seminar Presentation (5% per term, total 10%)
- (c) Reading Reports (5% per term, total 10%)
- (d) Two papers (20% per term, total 40%)
- (e) Two take-home exams (one in each term, 30%)

The Term Paper

Students must submit one term paper in each semester. The term paper must be between 2500 and 3000 words in length. Students are expected to develop and research their own thesis regarding one or more of the texts treated in the course. The term paper submission process has three phases, each of which must be completed, in order, for the paper to receive a passing grade. First, students must submit a short abstract, no more than 150 words in length (Nov. 3rd & Mar. 6th). Second, students must submit a working bibliography that indicates the substance and direction of their research (Nov. 15th & Mar. 15th). Finally, the paper itself should be submitted at the beginning of the final lecture of each term (Dec. 1st & April 5th).

Reading Reports

Each term students must submit a reading report. The reports: must (a) be submitted in the first class addressing the source material of the report; (b) must be no more than 750 words; (c) should review an element of interest in the original source; and (d) must address a source separate from that which the student plans to present on in seminar.

The Take Home Exam

The take home exam will be distributed electronically at noon on the first Monday after the end of lectures (December 5th & April 9th). Take home exams must be returned to the professor by noon the following Friday (December 9th & April 13th). Take home exams submitted after noon on the due dates will be awarded a zero. Exams may not be submitted electronically. The composition of the take home exams will be discussed in lecture.

Class Participation

Students are expected to arrive at lecture and seminar prepared to discuss the readings. Regular attendance in seminar and lecture is a required component of the course. In seminar, students are expected to attend carefully to the presentations of their peers and offer thoughtful questions and discussion afterwards.

Seminar Presentation

Students are required to present on one reading per term. The presentation expectations are those of a scholarly conference paper. Students should prepare detailed remarks or a prepared paper for reading that lasts twenty minutes. The presentation should develop and explore an aspect of the text slated for that week.

Completion of Course Work

All components of the course must be completed. Failure to complete any element will result in the awarding of an "F" in the course.

Late Penalty

Papers and reading reports are due at the beginning of lecture. Papers submitted after that will be docked 5% per day. Papers more than seven days late will not be accepted for grading.

Texts

Fall Term:

Abbe Sieyes, *Political Writings*, (Hackett)
Edmund Burke *Reflections on the Revolution in France*(Hackett)
Benjamin Constant *Speech at the Atheneum* (Reserves)
De Tocqueville *The Old Regime and The French Revolution* (Anchor)
Mill *On Liberty* (Pearson)
Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (Penguin)
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. (Hackett)
Friedrich Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. (Penguin)
Kierkegaard *The Present Age* (Harper Torchbooks)
Dostoyevsky *Notes From Underground* (Penguin)
Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*, (Signet)

Required Texts for Winter Term:

Arendt, Hannah. The Human Condition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.
Foucault, Michel. Discipline and Punish. Tr. A. Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.
Freud, Sigmund. Civilization and its Discontents. Tr. J. Strachey. New York: Norton, 1989.
Freud, Sigmund. Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego. Tr. J. Strachey. New York: Bantam Books, 1960.
Heidegger, Martin. Basic Writings. Ed. D.F. Krell. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1993.

Sartre, Jean-Paul. Existentialism is a Humanism. Tr. C. Macomber. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

Schmitt, Carl. The Concept of the Political. Tr. G. Schwab. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Required Texts on Reserve at MacOdrum Library:

Freud, Sigmund. Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality. Tr. & Ed. J. Strachey. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.

Foucault, Michel. The Foucault Reader. Ed. P. Rabinow. New York: Pantheon Books, 1984.

Heidegger, Martin. The Heidegger Controversy. Ed. R. Wolin. Boston: MIT Press, 1993.

Fall Term:

September 8th The French Revolution

September 13th Sieyes, *What is the Third Estate*

September 15th Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

September 20th Burke, *Reflections*

September 22nd Constant, *Speech at the Atheneum*

September 27th Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*

September 29th Tocqueville, *Old Regime*

October 4th Tocqueville, *Old Regime*

October 6th Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*

October 11th Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*

October 13th Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*

October 18th Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

October 20th Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

October 25th Nietzsche, *Beyond Good & Evil*

October 27th Nietzsche, *Beyond Good & Evil*

November 1th Nietzsche, *Beyond Good & Evil*

November 3rd Kierkegaard, *The Present Age*

November 8th Kierkegaard, *The Present Age*

November 10th Dostoyevsky, *Notes From Underground*

November 15th Dostoyevsky, *Notes From Underground*

November 17th Mill, *On Liberty*

November 22nd Mill, *On Liberty*

November 24th Mill, *On Liberty*

November 29th Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*

December 1st Review and Summary

Winter 2012

1	Jan. 5	Introduction to the course
2	Jan. 10	Freud, <i>Three Lectures on the Theory of Sexuality</i> , Essay I (on reserve)
3	Jan. 12	Freud, <i>Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego</i> , Chs. I-VI
4	Jan. 17	Freud, <i>Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego</i> , Chs. VII-XII
5	Jan. 19	Freud, <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> , Chs. I-IV
6	Jan. 24	Freud, <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> , Chs. V-VIII
7	Jan. 26	Heidegger, "Being and Time: Introduction", Chapter One, in <i>Basic Writings</i>
8	Jan. 31	Heidegger, "What is Metaphysics?" in <i>Basic Writings</i>
9	Feb. 2	Schmitt, <i>The Concept of the Political</i>
10	Feb. 7	Heidegger, "The Self-Assertion of the German University" in <i>The Heidegger Controversy</i> (on reserve)
11	Feb. 9	Sartre, <i>Existentialism is a Humanism</i>
12	Feb. 14	Heidegger, "Letter on Humanism" in <i>Basic Writings</i>
13	Feb. 16	Heidegger, "Question Concerning Technology" in <i>Basic Writings</i>
14	Feb. 28	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Prologue & Ch. I
15	Mar. 1	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Ch. II
16	Mar. 6	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Ch. III
17	Mar. 8	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Ch. IV
18	Mar. 13	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Ch. V
19	Mar. 15	Arendt, <i>The Human Condition</i> , Ch. VI
20	Mar. 20	Foucault, "What is Enlightenment?" and "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History" in <i>The Foucault Reader</i> (on reserve)
21	Mar. 22	Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part I
22	Mar. 27	Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part II
23	Mar. 29	Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part III
24	Apr. 3	Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part IV
25	Apr. 5	Conclusion

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

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 a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library