Critics of Modern Liberalism
Government 351G, unique 39200
CTI 322, unique 34560
Spring 2014

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Course Description

This course will study Rousseau’s *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* and *Emile*, followed by selections from Nietzsche’s *On the Genealogy of Morals* and *Twilight of the Idols* and parts 1-3 of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Our aim will be to understand both thinkers’ radical and comprehensive critiques of the Enlightenment or the modern rationalist project of reforming politics and society. Major themes will be human nature and its relation to history; the character of human excellence, freedom, and religion; and the relationship of the philosopher to the rest of society. Special attention will be given to Rousseau’s and Nietzsche’s opposing assessments of compassion, equality, democracy, and the Christian faith. Throughout the course, we will reflect on the impact that the revolutionary teachings of these philosophers have had on the political world in which we live.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Some previous study of political philosophy or CTI is recommended.

This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag. Ethics and Leadership courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

This course counts towards the Certificate Program in Core Texts and Ideas, a 6-course sequence in the great books, ideas, and controversies that have shaped the modern world. The program is open to students in all majors and colleges. For more information, visit [http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/coretexts](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/coretexts).

Texts


Schedule of Readings and Discussions

Jan. 14: introductory lecture
Jan. 16, 21, 23, and 28: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*
Feb. 6 and 11: *Emile*, book 2, esp. pp. 77-148t and 158b-163
Feb. 13 *Emile*, book 3
March 4 and 6: *Emile*, book 5
March 18 and 20: Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, part 1
March 25-May 1 (12 classes): Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, parts 1-3

**Course Requirements and Grading Policy**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>attendance, quizzes, and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5-page paper on Rousseau, due 5 pm on Fri., Feb. 28 in MEZ 3.134</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5-page paper on Nietzsche, due 5 pm on Fri., April 18 in MEZ 3.134</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>final exam, Tuesday, May 8, 2-5 pm, location TBA</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and quizzes on the assigned reading will be given at the beginning of class on random days throughout the term. Your attendance, quiz, and participation grade will be based on your quiz average and improved by active participation both in discussion and in office hours. It will fall by one letter grade (10%) for each unexcused absence after the second. There will be no penalty for documented illnesses, family emergencies, or absences due to religious holidays for which you have notified me at least 14 days in advance. Quizzes cannot be made up, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Perfect attendance will result in a 5% bonus for your attendance, quiz, and participation grade.

Papers will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. For advice on writing papers in political philosophy, please go to [https://webspace.utexas.edu/lsp226/lorrainepangle/advice.html](https://webspace.utexas.edu/lsp226/lorrainepangle/advice.html). For individual help with paper writing, please come to office hours any time or visit the Undergraduate Writing Center, info at [http://uwc.utexas.edu/](http://uwc.utexas.edu/). Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 3% + 2% for each calendar day they are late, unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

Plus and minus grades will be used, as follows: 93-100: A; 90-92: A-; 87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-; 77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-; 60-69: D; below 60: F.

University Honor Code: The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd), 471-6259.

No laptops may be used in class unless required by a student with disabilities.