Course Description

This course will study Rousseau’s *First and Second Discourses* and *Emile*, followed by Nietzsche’s *Beyond Good and Evil* and selections from other writings, mainly *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Our aim will be to understand both thinkers’ concepts of human nature, their radical and comprehensive critiques of the Enlightenment and the modern bourgeois society that it produced, and their contrasting projects or hopes to transform society and politics so as to better support human excellence and flourishing. Major themes will be the malleability of human nature and its relation to history, the character of freedom, and the problematic relationship between philosophy and society. Special attention will be given to Rousseau’s and Nietzsche’s contrasting 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.

Some previous study of political philosophy is strongly recommended.

Required Textbooks (available at the University Co-op)

Schedule of Readings

Jan. 21 and 26: Rousseau, *First Discourse*
Jan. 28 and Feb. 2 and 4: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*
Feb. 9 – March 11 (10 classes) Rousseau, *Emile*
March 23 – May 6 (14 classes) Nietzsche, selections from *Beyond Good and Evil*, *Genealogy of Morals*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, and *Twilight of the Idols*, schedule TBA

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

- attendance, quizzes, and participation 20%
- short paper on Rousseau (1200 words), due in class February 25 25%
- short paper on Nietzsche (1200 words), due in class April 20 25%
- final exam, Saturday, May 15, 7-10 pm, location TBA 30%

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. There will be no penalty for the first three absences. After that, your attendance, quiz, and participation mark will fall by one letter grade (10%) for each absence. Quizzes cannot be made up, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Active participation in discussion and office hours can improve your grade, as can attendance at two events relevant to this course:

Lecture by Arthur Melzer: Rousseau and the Modern Cult of Sincerity, Feb. 12, 4 pm, GAR 0.102.

Jefferson Book Club discussion of Rousseau’s Preface to *Narcisse*, Feb. 18, 5 pm, location TBA.

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 Professor Pangle’s or Jeremy Fortier’s 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.

No laptops may be used in class.
The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259.