

Contemporary Political Theory

Government 86.03
Dartmouth College Winter, 2014

Tuesday/Thursday
2:00-3:50 P.M.

X-hour: Wednesday, 4:15-5:05 P.M.

Office Hours: Thursday, 8:30-9:30 A.M.;
4:00-5:00 P.M.

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Course Description

Students in this course examine important ideas and trends in contemporary political theory. The course focuses on the works of such theorists as Friedrich Nietzsche, Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, and recent advocates of related positions. This course has two aims: first, its object is to foster an understanding of the different writers' conceptions of, *inter alia*, freedom, persons, power, and action. Second, and more importantly, the course invites students to assess the viability and relevance of the various views considered, with regard to contemporary politics, institutions, and society.

Required Readings

There will be both books as well as other reading materials for Govt. 86.03. The required six books for the course are as follows:

- (1) Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale (New York: Penguin Books, 1969 [1883-85]). [ISBN: 0-14-044118-2]
- (2) Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, revised edition, ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson, trans. Carol Diethe (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007 [1887]). [ISBN: 0-521-69163-X]
- (3) Martin Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, trans. and intro. William Lovitt (New York: HarperCollins, 1982) [ISBN: 0-061-31969-4]
- (4) Hannah Arendt, *Between Past and Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought*, intro. Jerome Kohn (New York: Penguin Books, 2006). [ISBN: 0-14-018650-6]
- (5) Paul Rabinow (ed.), *The Foucault Reader* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1984). [ISBN: 0-394-71340-0]
- (6) Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction*, trans. Robert Hurley (New York: Vintage Books, 1990 [1976]). [ISBN: 0-679-72469-9]

Each of these texts has been ordered and should be available for purchase at Wheelock Books. Required and recommended readings for the course are either contained within the books listed above, or they will be made available by other means. A complete listing of the scheduled readings for Govt. 86.03 is given below.

Format

Govt. 86.03 is a seminar, so it is designed to foster involvement and participation in discussion. Each class will begin with a student presentation on the assigned readings, of 20-25 minutes in duration. The presentations should include the following four elements: (a) introducing the authors (where appropriate); (b) outlining the central arguments and points of interest in the assigned readings; (c) analyzing and critically assessing the material under consideration; and (d) identifying questions that the readings raise, for subsequent consideration. The discussion will then be opened to the seminar as a whole. There is a good deal of reading in Govt. 86.03, but it is crucial that you come prepared, so that you can make use of the seminar discussions. Please also bring the relevant books and other materials with you, when we discuss them, since we will frequently refer to passages in the texts. If there are changes to be made to the syllabus, or adjustments of other kinds, they will be announced in class.

Grading

Students' grades will be comprised of the following three components:

(1) In-class presentation on scheduled readings	20% of total grade
(2) 20-25 page seminar paper	60%
(3) Class participation	<u>20%</u>
	100%

The seminar paper will be due on Friday, March 7th. Late papers will not be accepted without sufficient reason and advance notice. Students are expected to understand and follow the Academic Honor Principle of Dartmouth College in pursuing studies for this course. Students with any disabilities requiring special arrangements are encouraged to see the instructor by January 16th, in order to arrange appropriate accommodation.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction, Friedrich Nietzsche

January 7: Introduction

January 9: • Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Parts 1 and 2 (128 pp.)

Week 2: Nietzsche

January 14: • Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part 4 (90 pp.)

January 16: • Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, pp. 3-71 (preface, first essay, second essay)

Recommended: Nietzsche, "Peoples and Countries" (27 pp.) and "What is Noble?" (38 pp.) in *Beyond Good and Evil*

Week 3: Martin Heidegger

January 21: • Martin Heidegger, "Introduction" (27 pp.) and "The Word of Nietzsche: 'God Is Dead'" (60 pp.), in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*

Recommended: Martin Heidegger, "Who Is Nietzsche's Zarathustra?" (23 pp.) in *Nietzsche, Volume II: The Eternal Recurrence of the Same*, trans. David Krell (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984)

January 23: • Martin Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology" (33 pp.) in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*

• "Only a God Can Save Us" (*Der Spiegel* interview with Heidegger) (26 pp.), in Sheldon Wolin (ed.), *The Heidegger Controversy: A Critical Reader* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993), pp. 91-116

• "An Exchange of Letters" (between Herbert Marcuse and Martin Heidegger) (5 pp.), in Wolin (ed.), *The Heidegger Controversy*, pp. 160-64

Week 4: Hannah Arendt

January 28: • Hannah Arendt, "Action" (73 pp.) in *The Human Condition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958).

January 30: • Hannah Arendt, "Tradition and the Modern Age" (24 pp.) and "What Is Authority?" (51 pp.) in *Between Past and Future*

Week 5: Arendt

February 4: • Hannah Arendt, "What Is Freedom?" (30 pp.) and "The Crisis in Culture," (31 pp.) in *Between Past and Future*

February 6: • Hannah Arendt, "Truth and Politics" (37 pp.) and "The Conquest of Space and the Stature of Man" (15 pp.) in *Between Past and Future*

Week 6: Michel Foucault

February 11: • Michel Foucault, "Disciplines and Sciences of the Individual" (77 pp.) in *The Foucault Reader*

February 13: • Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1, Parts 1-3* (75 pp.)

Week 7: Foucault

February 18: • Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1, Parts 4-5* (84 pp.)

February 20: • Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History" (25 pp.) and "What Is an Author?" (20 pp.), in *The Foucault Reader*

Week 8: Foucault, Deleuze & Guattari,

February 25: • Michel Foucault and Gilles Deleuze, "Intellectuals and Power" (13 pp.), in Michel Foucault, *Language, Counter-memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews*, ed. Donald Bouchard (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977)
• Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, trans. Robert Hurley, Mark Seem, and Helen Lane (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983), preface, introduction; Part 1, chapters 1-3; Part 3, chapters 8, 9 (61 pp.)

Recommended: Deleuze & Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus*, Part 3, chapters 2, 5 (pp. 283-97, 340-82)

Recommended: François Fourquet, "Libidinal Nietzsche," *Semiotexte*, Vol. 3 (1978), pp. 68-77

Recommended: Vincent P. Pecora, "Deleuze's Nietzsche and Post-Structuralist Thought," *SubStance*, Vol. 48 (1986), pp. 34-50

February 27: Foucauldian Conservatism?

• Nancy Fraser, "Michel Foucault: A Young Conservative?" *Ethics*, Vol. 96 (1985), pp. 165-84

- Charles Taylor, "Foucault on Freedom and Truth," *Political Theory*, Vol. 12 (1984), pp. 152-83
 - William Connolly, "Taylor, Foucault, and Otherness," *Political Theory*, Vol. 13 (1985), pp. 365-76
 - Charles Taylor, "Connolly, Foucault, and Truth," *Political Theory*, Vol. 13 (1985), pp. 377-85
- Recommended: Nancy Fraser, "Foucault on Modern Power: Empirical Insights and Normative Confusions," *Praxis International*, Vol. 3 (1981), pp. 272-87
- Recommended: Richard J. Bernstein, "Foucault: Critique as a Philosophic Ethos," in *The New Constellation: The Ethical-Political Horizons of Modernity/Postmodernity* (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1991)
- Recommended: Paul Patton, "Michel Foucault: The Ethics of an Intellectual," *Thesis Eleven*, No. 10/11 (1984/85), pp. 71-80
- Recommended: Richard Rorty, "Moral Identity and Private Autonomy: The Case of Foucault," (6 pp.) in *Essays on Heidegger and Others: Philosophical Papers*, Vol. 2 (New York: Cambridge University Press)

Week 9: Contemporary Contests

March 4: The Body

- Ernesto Laclau, "Beyond Emancipation," *Development and Change*, Vol. 23 (1992), pp. 121-37
 - Ernesto Laclau, "Subject of Politics, Politics of the Subject," *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, Vol. 7 (1995), pp. 146-64
 - Scott Lash, "Genealogy and the Body: Foucault/Deleuze/Nietzsche," (24 pp.) in *The Body: Social Process and Cultural Theory*, ed. M. Featherstone, M. Hepworth, and B. Turner (London: Sage Publications, 1991)
- Recommended: Judith Butler, "Arguing With the Real," in *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex* (New York: Routledge, 1993).
- Recommended: Jeffrey Weeks, "Necessary Fictions: Sexual Identities and the Politics of Diversity," in *Invented Moralities* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1995), chapter 3

March 6: The Individual and Juridical Institutions

- William Connolly, "The Desire to Punish" (34 pp.) in *The Ethos of Pluralization* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995)
- Richard Flathman, "The Ideas, Ideals, and Practices of Liberalism and the Institutions of Police and Policing," (33 pp.) in *Reflections of a Would-Be Anarchist: Ideals and Institutions of Liberalism* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998)

- Slavoj Žižek, "The Risk Society and Its Enemies," (7 pp.) in *The Ticklish Subject: the absent centre of political ontology* (London: Verso, 1999)

March 7: *Seminar paper due*

Supplemental Readings

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovitch, 1979 [1948]).

Hannah Arendt, *The Life of the Mind* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovitch, 1978).

Cornelius Castoriadis, *The Imaginary Institution of Society*, trans. Kathleen Blamey (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1987).

Cornelius Castoriadis, *Philosophy, Politics, Autonomy*, ed. David A. Curtis (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991).

Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).

William Connolly, *Identity \ Difference: Democratic Negotiations of Political Paradox* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991).

William Connolly, *Why I Am Not a Secularist* (Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

Gilles Deleuze, *Nietzsche and Philosophy*, trans. Hugh Tomlinson (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984).

Gilles Deleuze, *Foucault*, trans. Seán Hand (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1988).

Gilles Deleuze, *Difference & Repetition*, trans. Paul Patton (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994).

Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, trans. Robert Hurley, Mark Seem, and Helen R. Lane (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983).

Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, trans. Brian Massumi (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987).

Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, *What Is Philosophy?*, trans. Graham Burchell and Hugh Tomlinson (New York: Verso, 1994 [1991]).

Terry Eagleton, *The Illusions of Postmodernism* (Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, 1996).

Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*, trans. Richard Howard (New York: Vintage Books, 1973 [1961]).

Michel Foucault, *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, trans. A. M. Sheridan (London: Tavistock Publications, 1972 [1969]).

Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994 [1970]).

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archaeology of Medical Perception*, trans. A. M. Sheridan Smith (New York: Pantheon Books, 1973).

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, trans. Alan Sheridan (New York: Pantheon Books, 1977 [1975]).

Michel Foucault, "Society Must Be Defended", ed. Mauro Bertania and Alessandro Fontana, trans. David Macey (New York: Picador, 2003 [1997]).

Michel Foucault, *The Politics of Truth*, ed. Sylvère Lotringer, trans. Lysa Hacroth and Catherine Porter (Los Angeles: Semiotext(e), 2007 [1997]).

Sigmund Freud, *The Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud*, ed. and trans. A. A. Brill (New York: Modern Library, 1938).

Johannes Fritzsche, *Historical Destiny and National Socialism in Heidegger's Being and Time* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999).

Gary Gutting (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Foucault* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

Jürgen Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity: Twelve Lectures*, trans. Frederick Lawrence (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1987) (contains lectures on Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Foucault).

Michael Hardt, *Gilles Deleuze: An Apprenticeship in Philosophy* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993).

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson (Cambridge: Basil Blackwell, 1992 [1927]).

Martin Heidegger, *The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics: World, Finitude, Solitude*, trans. William McNeill and Nicholas Walker (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995 [1929-30]).

Martin Heidegger, *The Principle of Reason*, trans. Reginald Lilly (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991 [1955-56]).

Martin Heidegger, *Nietzsche* (4 vols.) (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979-87 [1956-61]).

Martin Heidegger, *Basic writings from Being and Time to The Task of Thinking*, ed. and trans. David Farrell Krell (New York: Harper & Row, 1977).

Eugene W. Holland, "Deterritorializing 'Deterritorialization': from *Anti-Oedipus* to *A Thousand Plateaus*," *SubStance*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (1991), pp. 55-65.

Bonnie Honig, *Political Theory and the Displacement of Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993).

Walter Kaufmann, *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950).

George Kateb, *Hannah Arendt: Politics, Conscience, Evil* (Totowa, N.J.: Rowman & Allanheld, 1983).

Julia Kristeva, *Hannah Arendt: Life Is a Narrative*, trans. Frank Collins (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000).

Ernesto Laclau, *New Reflections on the Revolution of Our Time* (New York: Verso, 1990).

Ernesto Laclau, *On Populist Reason* (New York: Verso, 2005).

Ernesto Laclau & Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics* (New York: Verso, 1995).

John P. McCormick (ed.), *Confronting Mass Democracy and Industrial Technology* (Durham: Duke U. Press, 2002).

Kai Nielsen, *After the Demise of the Tradition: Rorty, Critical Theory, and the Fate of Philosophy* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1991).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings*, ed. Raymond Geuss and Ronald Speirs, trans. Ronald Speirs (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999 [1872]).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditations*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983 [1873-76]).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*, trans. Peter Preuss (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980 [1874]).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Daybreak: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality*, ed. Maudemarie Clarke and Brian Leiter, trans. R. J. Hollingdale (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997 [1881]).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols, or, How to Philosophize with a Hammer*, trans. Duncan Large (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998 [1889]).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Will to Power*, ed. Walter Kaufmann, trans. Walter Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale (New York, Random House, 1967 [1901]).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Pre-Platonic Philosophers*, ed. and trans. Greg Whitlock (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001).

Christopher Norris, *The Truth About Postmodernism* (Cambridge: Basil Blackwell, 1993).

Christopher Norris, *Reclaiming Truth: Contribution to a Critique of Cultural Relativism* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1996).

Maurizio Passerin d'Entrèves, *The Political Philosophy of Hannah Arendt* (New York: Routledge, 1994).

Hanna Pitkin, *The Attack of the Blob: Hannah Arendt's Concept of the Social* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).

Dana Villa, *Arendt and Heidegger: The Fate of the Political* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996).

Dana Villa (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Hannah Arendt* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, *Hannah Arendt: For Love of the World* (New Haven: Yale U. Press, 1982).

Slavoj Zizek, *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (New York: Verso, 1997).

Slavoj Zizek, *The Ticklish Subject: the absent centre of political ontology* (London: Verso, 1999).

Slavoj Zizek, *Organs without Bodies: Deleuze and Consequences* (New York: Routledge, 2003).