

GOV 314E—CTI 302
CLASSICS OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT:
FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT
The University of Texas at Austin

Instructor: Professor Gilmore

Classes: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (sct. 1); 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. (sct. 2)

Location: PAR 206 (sct. 1); SZB 4.414 (sct. 2)

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The modern world is, among other things, the world of capitalism. When we speak of progress today we ordinarily mean economic progress or at least that progress—technological, scientific—that depends on the economy and feeds it in turn; wherever we are going—where is that, exactly?—capitalism is our fuel.

But the world wasn't always modern, and it wasn't always capitalist. To understand our world, we must understand where our economic order came from and what effects it has had. How has it changed us? What has it unlocked? What has it suppressed? What, really, have we gained, and what have we lost? How can we maximize the good and minimize the bad in this rapid, disorienting, sometimes nauseating, spectacular, suffering world?

This is a political science course (you don't need any background in economics), but our first premise is an economic premise: everything, even economics itself, costs.

After exploring a dominant pre-capitalist view in Aristotle, we will study Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Adam Smith, who described and desired the modern world. We will then move to this world's greatest critic, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and three German discontents who followed him. Finally, we will arrive in the twentieth century and examine arguments by an author who wished to unleash capitalism (Hayek) and one who wished to restrain it (Polanyi).

This is a course at one of the finest universities in the country; it will push you, and I will push you, but you will hike the trail yourself—what you accomplish here will be your own. Most readings will be relatively short so that you have time to read them slowly; the papers will be short because concision is a good writer's first virtue.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The translations listed are the translations that each student is expected to have and to use both in class and on all assignments. You must have the assigned text, but you can use older editions of the assigned text if you want. Additional readings will be provided online via Canvas. All texts listed below will be available at the University Bookstore, but they can be purchased elsewhere.

Aristotle. 2013. *The Politics*. Trans. Carnes Lorde. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Hayek, Friedrich. 2007. *The Road to Serfdom*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hobbes, Thomas. 1994. *Leviathan*. Ed. Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett.
- Locke, John. 1982. *Second Treatise on Government*. Ed. Richard Cox Wheeling: Harlan Davidson.
- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Ed. Robert C. Tucker. 2nd edition. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Polanyi, Karl. 2001. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 1997. *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*. Ed. Victor Gourevitch. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Adam. 1982. *Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund.
- Weber, Max. 2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism: and Other Writings*. New York: Penguin.

OPTIONAL TEXTS

You and I are not Margaret Atwood. Since we are not Margaret Atwood, we can improve our writing (as Atwood herself has done every day for sixty years). To improve your writing, you need teachers who know how to write well. Luckily, good writers like writing books.

Cook, Claire. 2003. *Line by Line: How to Edit Your Own Writing*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Cook will teach you how to slice the fat off of your essays. More technical than the others; best read after them.

Garner, Bryan. 2013. *Garner on Language and Writing*. Chicago: American Bar Association.
Especially handy for those of you interested in law school; chapters one and five, however, will appeal to everyone.

Garner, Bryan. 2016. *Garner's Modern American Usage*. New York: Oxford University Press.
The modern author's usage bible, written by a genius. Also available in App form.

Norris, Mary. 2015. *Between You and Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen*. New York: W.W. Norton. Light, informal, and often hilarious. Just what you'd expect from a copy editor at the *New Yorker*, right?

Trimble, John. 1975. *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*. Englewood: Prentice-Hall. Trimble is Garner's BFF here in Austin and a man who took teaching as a vocation; aristocratic and witty.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Survive hand-to-hand combat with excellent books; write well; think freely.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade:

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| Participation | 30% |
| Midterm Paper (1500-2100 words) | 30% |
| Final Paper (2100-2750 words) | 40% |

Due Dates:

1st Essay due: February 23

2nd Essay due: April 24

COURSE GUIDELINES

Participation: If you show up every week and participate at least once most classes, you've secured a B- for participation. Miss some classes, or don't speak, and you'll go lower; speak well, ask questions, fight the text with all that ferocity you're famous for down here in Texas, and you'll go higher.

But if speaking in class isn't your style, you can still ace participation: I count coming to office hours or emailing me questions as participation. So do that weekly, and thoughtfully, and you'll be on your way to easy points.

Papers: This is a writing-intensive class.

1. For each paper, I will send out a prompt, and you will write an answer to that prompt. I will grade you based on how well you answer the prompt—both the substance of your argument and how you say it, though the latter matters more for those in the *A* range than for those in the *C* range.
2. Papers must be submitted with the word count at the top of the first page.
3. All papers must use Chicago citation style. Use this link (<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=539686&p=3694907>), then click “Chicago Manual of Style Online,” then “The Chicago Manual of Style Contents,” then section III, part 14, “Notes and Bibliography.” Your footnotes do not count toward the word count on your papers.
4. Late papers will suffer a three-point penalty for each day they are late. A paper that is two days late will be penalized six points; a paper that is three days late will be penalized nine points, etc. The maximum late penalty is 15%. I will no longer accept papers ten days after the due date. This applies to all handed-in assignments.
5. Papers above or below the word limit will suffer a three-point penalty for each 100 words they go over or under.

6. No extensions will be offered without a physician's certificate or proof of extenuating circumstances except in cases of religious observances.
7. **Plagiarism is anathema. Read the University of Texas at Austin's policy on plagiarism, summarized by the history department here:**
<https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/history/about/academic-integrity.php>. When you submit your work, you submit your own work. Submit another's work as your own and you may face failure, suspension, and expulsion (and yes, an A.I. system counts as "another"). If you have any questions about plagiarism, please ask me by email or in person at any time.
8. Be sure to keep both an extra hard copy and a spare electronic copy of your work in case your submission is lost.
9. Do not consult outside sources when writing your papers. For now you should meet these texts as their authors intended them to be met: alone, with only your wits to defend you.

Writing Resources on Campus: What's more fun than learning about editing from a book? Learning about editing in person. I encourage you to find information about the university's writing center at <https://uwc.utexas.edu/>. Yes, some of the tutors there may disappoint, but it's worth the risk: get a good one, it might change your life.

The University of Texas Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities. I'm happy to work with them.

Recordings: Recording lectures without permission will result in a 10% penalty on the final grade; if you have a learning disability (hearing difficulties, vision deficiencies, injuries that prevent you from taking notes, mental health crisis, etc.), please see the above statement on accommodations.

COURSE OUTLINE

Note: I will adjust the readings as we go; I'll let you know by email when I do.

Part I: Before Capitalism

- 1.) January 10—Course introduction
- 2.) January 12—Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, Chapters 1-10, 12-13
- 3.) January 17—Aristotle, *Politics*, Book II, Chapters 1-5, 7-9, 11-12
- 4.) January 19—Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III, Chapters 1-13
- 5.) January 24—Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Title Page, Dedicatory, and Introduction (p.0-5); Chapters I-VI

Part II: Moral and Political Foundations

- 6.) January 26—Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters VII, X-XIII
- 7.) January 31—Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters XIV-XVIII
- 8.) February 2—Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters XIX, XXIX-XXX
- 9.) February 7—John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, Chapters 1-6
- 10.) February 9—John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, Chapters 7, 9-11, 13-4, 19; **First Essay Assigned**
- 11.) February 14—Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, p.9-26, 50-78
- 12.) February 16—Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, p.78-91, 109-119, 126-131, 134-139, 212-217
- 13.) February 21—Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, p.10-30, 47-51, 276-278 (scan)
- 14.) February 23—Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, p.452-459, 463-472 (scan); **First Essay Due**

Part III: Rousseau

- 15.) February 28—Rousseau, *Second Discourse* Epigraph, Epistle Dedicatory, Preface, Exordium
- 16.) March 2—Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part I
- 17.) March 7—Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part II

Part IV: Three Angry Germans

- 18.) March 9—Friedrich List, *The National System of Political Economy*, Ch.1-4, 6, 23, 34-5 (scan)
- 19.) March 21—Karl Marx, *1844 Manuscripts*, “Estranged Labor”
- 20.) March 23—Karl Marx, *Wage Labor and Capital*
- 21.) March 28—Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
- 22.) March 30—Karl Marx, *Critique of the Gotha Program*
- 23.) April 4—Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic*, Ch. 1-2.
- 24.) April 6—Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic*, Ch. 5; **Second Essay Assigned**

Part V: Postwar

- 25.) April 11—Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, Preface (37-8), Ch.1-3
- 26.) April 13—Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*. Ch. 4, 6, 14, 16.
- 27.) April 18—Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, p.1-7, 31-2, 38-40, 42-9, 56-7, 59-60, 71-9.
- 28.) April 20—Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, p. 88-9, 136, 141, 146-8, 150-1, 160, 163-7, 210, 242-3, 245, 257-9, 268
- 29.) April 24—No class, **Second Essay Due**