

**VISIONS OF EMANCIPATION**  
**GOV 355M**  
**SPRING 2023**  
**Professor Maurizio Viroli**  
**WAG 420**  
**Unique 37979**  
**TTh. 11-12:30**

Professor: Dr. Maurizio Viroli  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the course is to examine and discuss a selection of the most relevant theories of political, social, and moral emancipation that have marked modern history. We shall focus on the works of political theorists, political militants, historians, and writers who have advocated visions of liberation from political oppression, social exclusion and discrimination, moral emptiness, and totalitarian domination. The underlying motivation of this course is the persuasion that visions of emancipation have lost the power to inspire sustained political and social movements in our times.

Why have visions of emancipation faded? Would it be desirable to see new visions of emancipation emerge? What should their content be? These questions will be the main issues that we shall discuss with the help of the following tentative reading list

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Class participation 30% Midterm 30% Final 40%

**NO CELL PHONES AND NO COMPUTERS ALLOWED IN CLASS.**  
**SOCER RULES APPLY: FIRST INFRACTION YELLOW CARD (ONE**  
**LETTER GRADE PENALTY); SECOND INFRACTION RED CARD**  
**(TWO LETTER GRADES PENALTY).**

The class participation grades will be based on the quality of the comments you make and the questions you raise in discussion board posts, in class, and

in office hours. Class participation grades will be raised by 5% for perfect attendance and will fall by 10% (one letter grade) for every unexcused absence after the second. There is no penalty for the first two absences, absences due to documented illness or family emergency, or absences due to religious holidays for which you have notified me in advance.

Papers will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. For advice on writing political philosophy essays, see [https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/government/\\_files/lpangleweb/AdviceOnPaperWriting.pdf](https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/government/_files/lpangleweb/AdviceOnPaperWriting.pdf). For individual help with paper writing, come to office hours any time or visit the Undergraduate Writing Center, info at <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. The midterm may be re-written within two weeks of being returned for a revised grade, which will then be averaged with the original grade. Unfortunately, we cannot apply this policy to the final because time is likely to run short.

Students who violate university rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, <https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability>.

Professor: Dr. Maurizio Viroli

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## REQUIRED TEXTS (PDFS WILL BE AVAILABLE)

Norman R. Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium: Revolutionary Millenarianism and Mystical Anarchists of the Middle Ages*, London, Maurice temple, 1970

Thomas More, *Utopia*, edited by George M. Logan and Robert M. Adams, Cambridge University Press

Maurizio Viroli, *Prophetic Times*, Cambridge University Press (selection available in PDF)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, edited by Harvey C. Mansfield, Chicago University Press, 1998

Niccolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, edited by Harvey C. Mansfield, Chicago University Press, 1996

Michael Walzer, *The Revolution of the Saints*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1965

Gordon Wood, *The Creation of the American Republic*, The University of North Carolina Press, 1969

Giuseppe Mazzini, *A Cosmopolitanism of Nations*, edited by Stefano Recchia and Nadia Urbinati, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2009

*The Marx Engels reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker, New York, Norton, 1978

Carlo Rosselli, *Liberal Socialism*, edited by Nadia Urbinati, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1994

Michael Walzer, *Exodus and Revolution*, New York, Basic Books, 1985

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Harcourt Brace, 1951

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1996

Martin Luther King, *A Testament of Hope*, Harper& Row

George Shulman, *American Prophecy. Race and Redemption in American Political Culture*, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Dostoevsky, *The Legend of the Grand Inquisitor*, Filiquarian Publishing

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### WEEK I

Introductory Lecture: Visions of emancipation

Norman R. Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium: Revolutionary Millenarianism and Mystical Anarchists of the Middle Ages*, London, Maurice temple, 1970

### WEEK II

Thomas More, *Utopia*

Girolamo Savonarola and the New Jerusalem (Excerpts from Viroli, *Prophetic Times*)

### WEEK III

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, edited by Harvey C. Mansfield, Chicago University Press, 1998

### WEEK IV

Niccolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, edited by Harvey C. Mansfield, Chicago University Press, 1996

### WEEK V

Michael Walzer, *Exodus and Revolution*, New York, Basic Books, 1985

### WEEK VI

Michael Walzer, *The Revolution of the Saints*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1965

### WEEK VII

## MIDTERM ASSIGNED

### WEEK VIII

Michael Walzer, *The Revolution of the Saints*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1965

Rousseau, *Second Discourse* (feel free to skim part one and most of the footnotes, along with the preface; part two is important, as are footnotes nine and thirteen.)

### WEEK IX

Rousseau, *Social Contract* (Book I, II)

### WEEK X Mar

*The Marx Engels reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker, New York, Norton, 1978

### WEEK XI

Carlo Rosselli, *Liberal Socialism*, edited by Nadia Urbinati, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1994

Giuseppe Mazzini, *A Cosmopolitanism of Nations*, edited by Stefano Recchia and Nadia Urbinati, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2009

### WEEK XII

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*  
Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

### WEEK XIII Apr 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1996  
Dostoevsky, *The Legend of the Grand Inquisitor*, Filiquarian Publishing

### WEEK XIV

A Review and a Conclusion