

VISIONS OF EMANCIPATION

Sp.22 – GOV 355M

SPRING 2022

Professor Maurizio Viroli

MEZ 2.124

Unique 37979

TTh. 11-12:30

Professor: Dr. Maurizio Viroli

Office hours: W 9-12

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NOTE UNTIL JANUARY 31 classes will be via ZOOM

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.
SOCCER 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. 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>.

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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

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.

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK I Jan 18th-20th

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 Jan 25th-27th

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

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

WEEK III Feb 1st-3rd

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

WEEK IV Feb 8th-10th

Thomas More, *Utopia*

WEEK V Feb 15th- 17th

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

WEEK VI Feb 22nd - 24th

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

WEEK VII Mar 1st - 3rd
MIDTERM ASSIGNED

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

WEEK VIII Mar 8th - 10th

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.)

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

WEEK IX Mar 22nd - 24th

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

WEEK X Mar 29th - 31st

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

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

WEEK XI Apr 5th - 7th

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

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

WEEK XII Apr 12th - 14th

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

WEEK XIII Apr 19th-21st

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

WEEK XIV Apr 26th-28th

FINAL ASSIGNED

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*

WEEK XV May 3rd-5th

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

Course review