

WINTER 2012

POLITICAL SCIENCE 312
HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT II:
PROTESTANT REFORMATION THROUGH THE 19TH CENTURY

Instructor: Scott Fast

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Pre-requisites: POSC 311 or permission of the instructor

SESSION I

- a) Introduction to the Course

- b) Introduction to the Protestant Reformation
 - predominance of commercial interests
 - corruption of the Church of Rome
 - history of north-south relations

SESSION II

The Protestant Reformation: Institutions and Knowledge

- the heterogeneity of the protestant reaction
- commerce, nation state and church government
- equality, choice and salvation
- private morality and public space
- voluntarism
- the appearance of the individual
- institutions and moral knowledge
- Protestantism and secularism
- Protestantism and capitalism
- Luther and Calvin

REQUIRED READING:

Martin Luther, “Concerning Christian Liberty” (Google “Concerning Christian Liberty” – Project Wittenburg – Part II)

RECOMMENDED READING:

John Calvin, *On God and Political Duty* (Library of Liberal Arts: Bobbs-Merrill)

Max Weber, "The Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism"

R. H. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*

SESSION III

Thomas Hobbes: *The Warre of All Against All*

- review of decline of medieval society
- between past and future
- power and fear
- power defined
- human nature vs human condition
- knowledge and experience
- sovereignty

REQUIRED READING:

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I

SESSION IV

Thomas Hobbes: *Knowledge, Anxiety and Political Order*

- the sovereign definer
- the "social contract" as a creative act
- power and knowledge
- sovereignty and democracy

REQUIRED READING:

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, Chapters 17,18, 21, 24 through 30

SESSION V

John Locke: Classical Liberal Individualism and Liberal Democracy

- Locke's "First Treatise"- Locke the Protestant
- The "State of Nature" and the "Household"
- classical natural law; Locke and Aristotle
- the problem with nature
- "social contract" as the solution
- citizens and representative government
- Locke's political economy
- Locke and Hobbes
- Liberal ethics: public contract and private morality

REQUIRED READING;

John Locke, The Second Treatise of Government (selections) (Porter)

Richard Litchman, "The Façade of Equality in Liberal Democratic Theory"
Part II (will be explained in class)

SESSION VI

John-Jacques Rousseau: Having Your Cake and Eating It Too

- Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau
- natural inequality vs artificial inequality
- Rousseau's political economy of the "Fall"
- the "Golden Age"
- the origins of inequality
- interdependence and the politics of leverage
- the search for consensus in the "warre of all against all"
- the "priesthood of all believers" meets the new "church"
- the "General Will" vs the "will of all"
- social contract and democracy
- consensus in the absence of shared symbols
- the seeds of constitutional democracy

REQUIRED READING:

J. J. Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality (selections in Porter)

J. J. Rousseau, The Social Contract (selections in Porter)

SESSION VII

Liberal Constitutionalism: James Madison and the Americans

- The Search for Deus Ex Machina
- limits on the power of government
- federalism
- the division of power
- checks and balances
- the idea of imbedded fundamental rights
- judicial independence
- presidential vs parliamentary systems
- the problem of factions
- Madison and Rousseau

REQUIRED READING

The Constitution of the United States

James Madison, The Federalist Papers, #'s 10, 41, and 51

(www.foundingfathersinfo/federalistpapers/)

SESSION VIII

Adam Smith: The Market, Capitalism, and Progress

- the market mechanism vs Locke's "natural order"
- Smith, Hegel, Marx and the "science" of progress
- the triumph of civil society and the "household"
- the "wealth of nations"
- the place of "moral sentiments"
- self-interest, competition, and supply and demand
- rational choice and self-interest
- a negative conception of government, or not?

NO REQUIRED READING -- YOUR ESSAY IS DUE

SESSION IX

John Stuart Mill on Liberty and Democracy

- John Stuart's departure from his father and god-father
- "soft-core" utilitarianism
- the principle of "Liberty"
- tyranny of the majority
- the call for tolerance and honest dialogue
- liberty and "utility"
- the extension of the franchise
- representative government and the virtues of democracy

REQUIRED READING:

John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism (selections from Porter)

John Stuart Mill, On Liberty (selections from Porter)

Richard Litchman, "The Façade of Equality in Liberal Democratic Theory"

(see session V)

SESSION X

G. F. W. Hegel: Reason and History

- Hegel and Christian thought
- phenomenology and history
- historical idealism
- history as “purpose”; history as “progress”
- the state, civilization, and progress

REQUIRED READING:

Hegel, Introduction to the Philosophy of History (selections in Porter)

Hegel, The Philosophy of Right (selections in Porter)

Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit (selections in Porter)

RECOMMENDED READING:

M.B. Foster, The Political Philosophies of Plato and Hegel

Herbert Marcuse, Reason and Revolution

SESSION XI

Marx and Hegel: Materialism as Theory and Method

- the political economy of “fate”
- materialism and historical materialism
- philosophical materialism vs philosophical idealism
- the dialectic of work

REQUIRED READING:

Karl Marx, “Discovering Hegel” (Tucker, p 7)

Karl Marx, “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right
(Tucker p 16 and p 53)

Karl Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts (selections in Porter)

SESSION XII

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: The Rise and Fall of Capitalist Society

- the concept of economic “class”
- the revolution of the Bourgeoisie
- capitalism and technology
- contradictions within capitalism
- crises of “overproduction”
- the revolution of the Proletariat

REQUIRED READING:

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology* (selections in Porter)

Friedrich Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific, Part III* (Tucker p 701)

Karl Marx, *Capital* (Selections in Porter)

Karl Marx, “Wage Labor and Capital” (Tucker p 203)

SESSION XIII

Marx, and the Current Crisis of Capitalism

- triumph of the corporate “grand bourgeoisie”
- “bourgeois” economics
- the role of globalization
- the corporate context and decision making
- the role of the diminished state: to discipline workers
- capitalism and democracy

REQUIRED TEXTS FOR PURCHASE at the UFV BOOKSTORE

Porter (ed.), *Classics in Political Philosophy* (3rd Edition)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader* (2nd Edition)

