

Phil 166 Classics in Political Philosophy

Syllabus
Fall 2016
Tu.-Thu 3:30-4:50 pm
Solis Lecture Hall
Room 109

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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: Mon./Wed 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

1. Overview

In this class students will obtain a familiarity with classic texts in political philosophy by thinkers such as Rousseau, Burke, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Bentham and Marx. Much of our class will take the form of a role-playing game called Reacting to the Past. As the Reacting web site puts it, "Reacting to the Past (RTTP) consists of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work." Our game takes place during the French Revolution. Students will be assigned roles of historical personalities such as King Louis XVI and the Marquis de Lafayette, Commander of the National Guard, as well as members of various political factions. Students will work in factions to pass bills in the National Assembly and achieve other goals. As one summary of the French Revolution game puts it, "you will make speeches, write articles, negotiate, make backroom deals, riot, perhaps stretch the truth on occasion, maybe even betray erstwhile allies. Along the way you will hopefully gain a greater appreciation of what at stake in the revolution and why the passions it unleashed proved so very difficult to control."

For more information about Reacting to the Past see <https://reacting.barnard.edu>.

2. Assessment

Participation: 30%

Written work: 50%

Final exam: 20%

A detailed breakdown of written work requirements and due dates will be made available in Week I.

Because this class involves a role-playing game in which you will be working in teams with your fellow students, participation will be especially important. If you don't show up for class, it can have a serious outcome on what happens in the game. Because this is a new teaching approach for both the professor and students, I will be making the following opportunity available for students who obtain a participation mark of B+ or higher by week eight. If they show up having done the class readings for weeks nine and ten and contribute to class discussion, they will have the option of not having to sit the exam or having their final grade in the class raised by one fraction of a letter grade (B to B+, B+ to A- etc.).

3. Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the following book, which is available at the bookstore:

Jennifer Popiel, Mark Carnes and Gary Kates. *Rousseau, Burke and Revolution in France, 1791 Second Edition* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2015)

We will also be reading Books I and II of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's masterpiece *The Social Contract* (1750) A free copy of the text is available here:

<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>

A small number of additional readings will appear on TritonEd (formerly Ted).

0. Thursday September 22: Intro to Phil 166

1. Week of September 26: Setup Phase I

Game Book: "Versailles to Varennes," pp. 19-33; excerpts of de Secondat, Montesquieu, Voltaire and Rousseau, pp. 87-99)

No Class Thursday

2. Week of October 3: Rousseau vs. Burke

Tuesday: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books I and II. Available for free at: <http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>

Thursday: Game Book: Burke, pp. 145-67; "Declaration of the Rights of Man," pp. 120-23.

3. Week of October 10: Set-up Phase II + III

Tuesday: Game Book: "Versailles to Varennes," pp. 33-47; Sieyès, pp. 108-110; "Declaration of the King," pp. 115-120; "August Decrees," pp. 117-120.

Thursday: Game Book: Rousseau, 99-108; Arthur Young, Deputies of the Third Estate, 111-15

4. Week of October 17: Set-up Phase IV

Tuesday: Game Book: "Roles and Factions," pp. 69-86; Lameth, pp. 123-5.

No Class Thursday

5: Week of October 24: Public Speaking Workshop and Game Session I

Thursday: Volume One of newspapers due at beginning of class

6. Week of October 31: Game Sessions II and III

Thursday: Volume Two of newspapers due at beginning of class

7. Week of November 7: Game Sessions IV and V

Thursday: Volume Three of newspapers due at beginning of class

8. Week of November 14: Game Session VI and Postmortem

9. Week of November 21: After the Revolution I

Jeremy Bentham, "Anarchical Fallacies," in Waldron, *Nonsense Upon Stilts: Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987). (on TritonEd).

No Class Thursday

10. Week of November 28: After the Revolution II

Karl Marx, "On The Jewish Question," in Waldron, *Nonsense Upon Stilts* (On TritonEd).

Final Exam: Week of December Five: See exam schedule on Tritonlink.

4. General Information

4a Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. Drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available immediately after class or by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

4b Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

4c One-time Discretionary Extension

Students can request one essay extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that discretionary extensions apply only to essays, not to newspapers and other writing assignments that occur as part of the Reacting role-playing game.

4d Late Work

For all essays handed in late without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation

with your professor. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

4e Accommodation for Disability

I am happy to provide accommodation to students with disabilities, whether physical or mental. Students requesting accommodations should provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone); osd@ucsd.edu (email); disabilities.ucsd.edu (web).

4f Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

4g Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in lecture. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

4h Exams

All students except those with an OSD exemption are required to take the exam on the scheduled day and time.