GE 21A: History of Social Thought  
Fall 2003  
Professors Rogers Brubaker, Vincent Pecora, and Russell Jacoby

Faculty

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## Section Times and Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>2-3:50pm</td>
<td>Campbell 2226</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>4-5:50pm</td>
<td>Campbell 2226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>9-10:50am</td>
<td>Public Policy 2317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>10-11:50am</td>
<td>Public Policy 2278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>10-11:50am</td>
<td>Covel 218</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>12-1:50pm</td>
<td>Public Policy 2278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>2-3:50pm</td>
<td>Covel 218</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>4-5:50pm</td>
<td>Public Policy 2278</td>
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## Course Description

The History of Social Thought cluster course examines classics of Western social, political, philosophical, and scientific thought from the 17th century to the present. The syllabus includes works by René Descartes, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Adam Smith, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Friedrich Nietzsche, Max Weber, W. E. B. Du Bois, Sigmund Freud, Virginia Woolf, Jean-Paul Sartre, Michel Foucault, and others.

The authors we will be reading were responding to intellectual, political, and socioeconomic transformations that profoundly shaped -- and continue to shape -- the modern world. These include the scientific revolution, the political revolutions in England, France, and America, and the commercial and industrial revolutions. In coming to terms with the modern world, these thinkers laid the foundations for many contemporary disciplines, including physics, biology, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, and philosophy. We will study the substance and style of their thought, the controversies they evoked, and the interpretative traditions that have become attached to each of them over the ensuing years.

If the works of these thinkers are considered classics, it is because they address questions that are as pertinent and pressing today as they were when the books were written. These include questions about human nature, about the natural world and our place in it, about the source and legitimacy of political authority, about what constitutes a good society, about the meaning and limits of human freedom, about the relation between individual interests and the common good, about the nature and limits of democracy, about the status of women, about the dynamics of capitalist markets, about the workings of the human psyche, and about the limits of reason.

The course invites students to engage these questions -- and to join in a dialogue across the centuries. The teaching staff does not seek to provide authoritative interpretations of the texts. Instead, we have designed the course to bring students into direct and sustained engagement with these classic works. Social thought is not like chemistry or mathematics. There are no definitive interpretations of the texts we read, no single or simple right answers to the questions we explore. The books we read are
complex; they are full of inner tensions. We encourage students to grasp these tensions and to come to terms with the complexities.

**Who should take the course.** We welcome all students, whatever their prospective major, who are interested in exploring fundamental issues in the history of social thought. We particularly welcome students with an interest in social theory, political theory, or philosophy. However, we discourage students from taking the course whose primary interest is in efficiently satisfying GE requirements. This is a demanding course, and readings are difficult and complex. Students should not take the course unless they are prepared to grapple seriously with this difficult material.

**Course format and requirements.** During fall and winter quarters, the course meets three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 to 11:50) for lectures and once a week for a two-hour section discussion (sections are offered on Monday afternoon and Tuesday). During spring quarter, students choose a seminar that allows them to explore a particular topic in greater depth.

Students are required to complete the reading assignments prior to lectures in which the readings are discussed, and to bring the assigned reading to class to consult particular passages from the text. Section discussions will develop themes introduced in lecture, focus on the specific reading assignments, and work on developing reading strategies and writing skills.

The books we will be reading are challenging and complex works, and students should be prepared to read the assignments more than once.

Two papers are required each quarter, as well as midterm and final exams. Attendance is mandatory at lectures and sections, and will also be required for two evening movies each quarter. Grades will be based on the following assignments: section participation (20%), two papers (15% each), mid-term (20%), and final examination (30%). _Students who miss more than two section meetings will receive no credit for section participation. Students who miss exams or paper deadlines will not receive credit. Exceptions will be made only in the case of authentic, and documented, emergency._

**Administrative Questions**

As co-coordinator for the course, David Yamanishi (falstaff@ucla.edu) can answer logistical and administrative questions about enrollment, credit, attendance, and general troubleshooting.

**Required Texts**

The texts listed below are available at the ASUCLA Textbook Store, on the first floor of Ackerman Union. Supplementary readings not included in the texts will be made available on the course website.
Because reference will be made to specific passages and specific pages, it is important that you purchase the exact editions of the texts indicated below.

Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France
Penguin Books, ISBN 0140432043 ($11.00)

Descartes, Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy
(edited by Donald Cress)

Hobbes, The Leviathan (edited by J.C. Gaskin)
Oxford University Press, ISBN 0192834983 ($8.95)

Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights
St. Martin’s Press, ISBN 0312108028 ($13.75)

Locke, Second Treatise of Government (edited by C.B. Macpherson)
Hackett Publishing Company, ISBN 0915144867 ($4.95)

Mill, On Liberty and Other Essays (edited by John Gray)
Oxford University Press, ISBN 0192833847 ($9.95)

Rousseau, The Social Contract, (translated by Maurice Cranston)
Penguin Books, ISBN 0140442014 ($9.00)

Rousseau, First and Second Discourses (ed. Roger D. Masters)
St. Martin’s Press, ISBN 0312694407 ($12.75)

Class Website

The class website (http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/classes/cluster21) includes the following:

- Supplementary assigned readings not included in the required books
- Selected background readings on the texts, their authors, and the historical contexts in which they lived and wrote.
- Reading questions designed to provide guidance as you read the assigned works
- Lecture notes and slides
- Up-to-date information about class announcements, readings, events, and office hours.
• Discussion boards for each Teaching Fellow’s sections, as well as a discussion board for the class as a whole. We strongly encourage you to use the discussion boards as a place to discuss the readings; the faculty and Teaching Fellows will monitor and participate in the discussions.

**Outline of Lectures and Important Dates**

Events outside the regular class time are in *boldfaced italic*. The movie screenings are required, but there will be alternative ways for you to see the movies if you cannot attend at the scheduled times. The opening dinner and the special dinners before the movies are not required, but we do hope you’ll come!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 29</td>
<td>Scientific Revolution (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 1</td>
<td>Scientific Revolution (RB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 2</td>
<td><strong>Opening Dinner, 6-8pm, Delta Terrace</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 3</td>
<td>Descartes, Discourse on Method (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 6</td>
<td>Descartes, Discourse on Method (RB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 8</td>
<td>Hobbes, Leviathan (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 10</td>
<td>Hobbes, Leviathan (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 13</td>
<td>Hobbes, Leviathan (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 15</td>
<td>Locke, Second Treatise (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 17</td>
<td>Locke, Second Treatise (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 20</td>
<td>Locke, Second Treatise (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 22</td>
<td>Smith, Moral Sentiments (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 24</td>
<td>Smith, Moral Sentiments (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 27</td>
<td>Smith, Wealth of Nations (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 29</td>
<td>Smith, Wealth of Nations (RB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 31</td>
<td>First paper assignment distributed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 3</td>
<td>Rousseau, Second Discourse (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 5</td>
<td>Midterm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 5</td>
<td>Screening of “The Wild Child,” 7pm, De Neve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 7</td>
<td>Rousseau, Social Contract (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 10</td>
<td>Rousseau, Social Contract (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 12</td>
<td>French Revolution (RJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 14</td>
<td>French Revolution (RJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 17</td>
<td>Conservative Thought (RJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 19</td>
<td>Second paper assignment distributed.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 21</td>
<td>Religion (VP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 24</td>
<td>Bentham, Utilitarianism (RB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 25</td>
<td>Screening of “Danton,” 7pm, De Neve Auditorium (Special Dinner Beforehand at De Neve)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 26</td>
<td>Bentham and Mill, Utilitarianism (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 28</td>
<td>No class (Thanksgiving break).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 1</td>
<td>Mill, On Liberty (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 3</td>
<td>Mill, On Liberty (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 5</td>
<td>Mill, Subjection of Women (RB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 12</td>
<td>Final exam, 3-6pm.</td>
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**Reading assignments and lecture topics**

Readings are to be completed by the date that precedes each set of readings. All readings are from the texts at the ASUCLA bookstore, except for those marked with an asterisk, which will be available on the course website. For readings from the bookstore’s texts, you must purchase the exact edition specified above in the list of required books.

**Monday, September 29**  **Scientific Revolution**

Steven Shapin, *The Scientific Revolution*\(^*\), Chapter One (pp. 15-64).


**Wednesday, October 1**  **Scientific Revolution**

**Friday, October 3**  **Descartes**


**Monday, October 6**  **Descartes**
Wednesday, October 8  

Hobbes


Introduction (pp. 7-8).
Chapter 1, Sense.
Chapter 2, Imagination.
Chapter 3, Consequence or Train of Imaginations.
Chapter 4, Speech: ¶ 1-14, 22-24.
Chapter 6, Passions: ¶ 1-7, 58.
Chapter 10, Power, Worth, Dignity, Honour, and Worthiness: ¶ 1-49.
Chapter 11, Difference of Manners: ¶ 1-6.
Chapter 13, Natural Condition of Mankind.

Friday, October 10  

Hobbes

*Leviathan*, Part I

Chapter 14, First and Second Natural Laws: ¶ 1-14, 18-19, 31.
Chapter 15, Other Laws of Nature: ¶ 1-5, 17-25, 30-41.
Chapter 16, Persons, Natural and Artificial: ¶ 1-2, 4-5, 13-18.

*Leviathan*, Part II

Chapter 17, Causes, Generation and Definition of a Commonwealth.
Chapter 18, Rights of Sovereigns.
Chapter 19, Kinds of Commonwealth: ¶ 1-3, 10-12.
Chapter 21, Liberty of Subjects: ¶ 1-21.
Chapter 29, Dissolution of a Commonwealth.

Monday, October 13  

Hobbes

Wednesday, October 15  

Locke

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*:

Chapter 2, State of Nature: § 4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-14.
Chapter 3, State of War: § 16-21.
Chapter 4, Slavery: § 22-23.
Chapter 7, Political or Civil Society: § 87-91, 93-94.
Chapter 8, Beginning of Political Societies: § 95-99.
Chapter 9, Ends of Political Society and Government.
Friday, October 17     Locke

*Second Treatise of Government*

Chapter 10, Forms of a Commonwealth: § 132 only.
Chapter 11, Extent of the Legislative Power.
Chapter 12, Legislative, Executive, and Federative Power.
Chapter 13, Subordination of the Powers of the Commonwealth: § 149.
Chapter 15, Paternal, Political and Despotical Power.
Chapter 18, Tyranny: § 199, 202-204, 207-209.
Chapter 19, Dissolution of Government: § 211-221, 222 (through the bottom of age 111 only), 223-230, 240-243.

Monday, October 20     Locke

Wednesday, October 22     Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments

Adam Smith, excerpts from *Theory of the Moral Sentiments.*


Friday, October 24     Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments

Monday, October 27     Smith, Wealth of Nations

Adam Smith, excerpts from *The Wealth of Nations.*

Wednesday, October 29     Smith, Wealth of Nations

Friday, October 31     Rousseau, First Discourse

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality,” in *The First and Second Discourses*

Preface: first ¶ only (p. 91 to top of p.92).
Introduction: pp. 101-104.
Part I: p. 104 through the top of p. 107; middle of p. 109 through the bottom of p. 117; bottom of p. 126 through the end of Part I (p. 141).
Note i [long footnote to page 115]: p. 192 to bottom of p. 196; second full ¶ on p. 199 to middle of p. 200; bottom of p. 201 to top of p. 203.
Monday, November 3  Midterm Exam

Wednesday, November 5  Rousseau, First Discourse

“Discourse on the Origin of Inequality”


Friday, November 7  Rousseau, Social Contract

Rousseau, excerpt from “Discourse on Political Economy”*

Rousseau, The Social Contract

Book I: Introduction (first ¶ only, p. 49), Chapters 1, 3, 4 (through first full ¶ on p. 55; also last ¶ of chapter on p. 58), 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (last ¶ only on p. 68).

Book II: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 (first 3 ¶s only).

Book III: Chapters 1 (p. 101 to bottom of p. 102), 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Book IV: Chapters 1, 2, 8 (from top of p. 181 to end of chapter).

Monday, November 10  Rousseau, Social Contract

Wednesday, November 12  French Revolution

Lynn Hunt, editor, The French Revolution and Human Rights

Chapters 7-10, 13-15, 17-20, 26, 29, 34, 38.

Friday, November 14  French Revolution

Monday, November 17  Conservative Thought

Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France


Wednesday, November 19  Conservative Thought
Friday, November 21  Religion

Karl Marx, excerpt from *On the Jewish Question.*

Joseph de Maistre, excerpt from *Study on Sovereignty.*

Monday, November 24  Utilitarianism

Jeremy Bentham, excerpt from *Principles of Morals and Legislation*.

John Stuart Mill, “Utilitarianism” in *On Liberty and Other Essays*:


Wednesday, November 26  Utilitarianism

Monday, December 1  Mill, Liberty

“The Subjection of Women,” in *On Liberty and Other Essays*

Chapter 1, “Introduction”: pp. 5-19.
Chapter 2, “Of the Liberty of Thought and Discussion”: pp. 20-22 (through first full ¶); p. 24 (beginning with first full ¶) through the bottom of p. 25; p. 40 (beginning with first full ¶) through the middle of p. 43; bottom of p. 44 through p. 46 (until ¶ break); bottom of p. 51 through the bottom of p. 56; top of p. 59 (beginning after ¶ break) through p. 59 (through last full ¶).
Chapter 4, “Of the Limits to the Authority of Society over the Individual”: p. 83 through the top of p. 84; bottom of p. 88 through the end of p. 93.

Monday, December 3  Mill, Liberty

Friday, December 5  Mill, Subjection of Women

“The Subjection of Women,” in *On Liberty and Other Essays*

p. 471, first ¶.
pp. 482 (from ¶ break) through 501.