

The Early Modern World

Honors 201-10

Dr. Brandon Look

MH 101

TR 9:30-10:45

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Course Description

This course is part of the University Studies Program (USP), which is designed to provide a comprehensive liberal arts education to all undergraduates. The four Honors Colloquia together satisfy the English Writing, Humanities Disciplinary, and interdisciplinary requirements for USP, as well as about 80% of the requirements for graduating “with Honors in Honors”.

The general goals of this colloquium are the following: to enhance the abilities of students to read critically, to write and speak clearly about a variety of texts, and to reflect on certain themes important in the development of western civilization. This course is an “election-year special” and will be concerned principally with issues in political philosophy and the development of modern political thought.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to write **four papers** of approximately five pages in length during the course of the semester. I shall hand out assignments every other week starting 9/2/2004; students are to write on two of the first four papers. **No extensions will be granted.** These papers will together constitute **80% of the final grade.** (If you write more than four papers, I will take your four highest grades.)

In addition, **students are expected to attend all classes and be active participants in class discussion.** The Honors colloquia are, after all, *discussion* classes, and it is the responsibility of the students to have read the assigned material carefully and to be willing and prepared to present his or her ideas about the texts. At the end of the semester, each student will be asked to grade the performance of his or her peers. These grades, along with my own assessment, will constitute the final **20% of the course grade.**

Grading

As should be clear from above, 80% of each student’s final grade will depend upon the quality of his or her written work – or my estimation of the quality of his or her written work. Does this mean that the grading is “subjective”? Yes. But the grading is neither arbitrary nor whimsical. With each paper, I ask, (1) How well has the student understood the text? (2) How well has the student argued his or her point? (This question sometimes turns out to be, Does the student have a point at all?) (3) How clearly does the student write? (Remember: It is the job of the writer to communicate an idea to the reader. If the reader has to re-read a passage several times before he or she can understand the writer’s point, the writer could have been clearer. If the reader simply cannot understand the writer’s point, the writer has failed.) If you do not yet own a copy of Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style*, please buy one. Read it, love it, live it.

Students’ final grades will be either A, B, C, D, or E. There is no +/- grading in the Honors Program.

Incompletes

No incompletes will be given in this class.

Unexcused absences

As mentioned above, I expect students to contribute to classroom discussion. Therefore, students must come to class. Students who miss more than one or two classes will be marked down **severely** in the class participation grade.

Plagiarism

All work must be the student's own. If a student is caught plagiarizing, he or she will, according to University Regulations, be failed for the course and possibly expelled from the University.

Required Texts

- Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Ed. Richard Tuck. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Locke, John. *Two Treatises of Government*. Ed. Peter Laslett. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Social Contract and other later political writings*. Ed. Victor Gourevitch. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Burke, Edmund. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Ed. Conor Cruise O'Brien. New York: Penguin, 1986.
- Wootton, David (ed.), *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003.
- Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America*. Ed. J. P. Mayer. New York: Perennial Classics, 2000.
- Mill, J. S. *On Liberty and other writings*. Ed. Stefan Collini. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Marx, Karl. *Selected Writings*. Ed. David McLellan. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

In addition, I shall provide students with copies of Kant's essay "Perpetual Peace" and selected Supreme Court decisions.

Schedule

Date	Reading
8/26	Introduction and Class Mechanics
8/31	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Introduction, Ch. 6-7, 10-13
9/2	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Ch. 14-19
9/7	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Ch. 21, 24, 28-31
9/9	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , Ch. 1-5
9/14	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , Ch. 7-9
9/16	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , Ch. 10-14
9/21	Rousseau, <i>Of the Social Contract</i> , Books 1-2
9/23	Rousseau, <i>Of the Social Contract</i> , Books 3-4
9/28	Kant, <i>Perpetual Peace</i>
9/30	Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> pp. 83-120
10/5	Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> pp. 121-55, 169-73, 188-95
10/7	Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> pp. 266-85, 371-77
10/12	<i>The Constitution of the United States</i> , Letters/Essays of Cato, Centinel, and Brutus in <i>The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers</i> (pp. 326-38; 58-96)
10/14	<i>Federalist</i> #1, 6, 9, 10, 47-49, 51 in <i>The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers</i>
10/19	U.S. Supreme Court Decisions: Marbury v. Madison; McCulloch v. Maryland
10/21	U.S. Supreme Court Decisions: Johnson v. M'Intosh; Dred Scott v. Sandford
10/26	De Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Author's Introduction, Vol. I, Pt. I, Ch. 2-6 (but skip pp. 66-86)
10/28	De Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Vol. I, Pt. II, Ch. 1, 5 (pp.196-202), 6-8.
11/2	No class. Election Day.
11/4	De Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Vol. II, Pt. I, Ch. 1-5, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18-20
11/9	De Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Vol. II, Pt. II, Ch. 1-5, 8, 13-14, 18-20
11/11	De Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Vol. II, Pt. III, Ch. 12-13, 17-19, 21; Pt. IV, Ch. 1-3, 6-8.
11/16	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 1-2
11/18	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 3-5
11/23	Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> , Ch. 1, 4
11/25	Marx, <i>On the Jewish Question</i> (pp. 46-70), <i>Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts</i> (pp. 83-121)
11/30	Marx, <i>Theses on Feuerbach</i> (pp. 171-74), <i>The German Ideology</i> (pp. 175-208)
12/2	Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (pp. 245-72), <i>The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte</i> (pp. 329-55)
12/7	Marx, <i>Grundrisse</i> (pp. 379-423)
12/9	Marx, <i>Capital</i> (pp. 452-525)
12/17	End of Semester