

Political Philosophy, Fall 2012

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<u>Class:</u>	Monday/Wednesday: 3:40 PM – 5:20 PM (3305 Boylan)
<u>Office hours:</u>	Wednesday: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (or by appointment)

Please read this syllabus carefully. It contains answers to questions you will raise during the semester.

What is revolution? What is counter-revolution? In this class we will look closely at the theory and history of the French, American and Haitian Revolutions. Through our examination of the primary questions above we will attempt to illustrate many central questions of political philosophy such as the nature of political power, the state, political resistance, conservatism etc.

Course Requirements

- The reading workload for this class is heavier than it is for normal three-credit classes. Please make sure you can keep up.
- Weekly reading assignments, attendance, participation, quizzes: 25% of the final grade.
- Paper Assignments: 50 % of the final grade (2 assignments for 25% each)
- Final Exam: 25% of the final grade.
- For writing assignments, you will have two weeks to work on your answers. If you experience difficulty with the questions, come and talk to me. Students that show me drafts of papers do better on their papers than students who do not.
- **I will not accept late assignments. Do not ask me for extensions. It is unfair to students who hand their papers in on time. To make up the grade you must submit different essays.**
- I do not accept emailed assignments. All papers must be handed to me in person or left in my mailbox - if you cannot attend class - on the day the paper is due. There will be no 'extra-credit' assignments.
- Plagiarism will be rewarded with an F, and further disciplinary action through the office

of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Attendance

Failure to attend class will mean a reduction in your classroom activity grade so it is in your best interest to attend all classes and participate actively. Absence from a class means you will not profit from class discussion and your ability to write quality papers will be diminished. Nothing you say in class will cause your grade to be lowered. Asking questions about the readings will aid your understanding of the material, and help me as well.

Please be on time; late arrivals are very disruptive and disrespectful. I will take attendance at the beginning of class; if you are late, you will be marked absent.

Texts and Readings:

There are several required texts and a course packet (CP).

French Revolution:

1. Sieyes, What is the Third Estate
(<http://userhome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pnapoli/core4/f2002/sieyes.html>)
2. Edmund Burke, *Reflections on The Revolution in France*, Oxford World Classics, OUP, ISBN: 0199539022, 2009, \$8)
3. Walzer, Regicide and Revolution (CP)
4. Maistre, Considerations on France (CP)

American Revolution

5. Thomas Paine: *The Rights of Man and Common Sense*, Dover.
6. The Federalist Papers: [1-3, 9-10, 14-15,] Time permitting: 22-23, 26-27, 37, 47-48 [and even more time permitting: 84, 78, 70, 39, 51] (CP)

Assessment and Evaluation of American and French Revolutions:

7. Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*, Penguin Classics, 2006, 0143039903, \$10)

Haitian Revolution:

1. Nesbitt: Universal Emancipation (CP, Chapters 1-3)
2. Hegel and Haiti (http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/programmes/07-08/integration/bhambra/2/buck_morss_hegel_haiti.pdf)

8/27: Introduction

8/29 Sieyes, What is the Third Estate

9/5: Burke, Reflections on The Revolution in France,

9/10 Burke, Reflections on The Revolution in France,

9/12: Burke, Reflections on The Revolution in France,

9/19: Burke, Reflections on The Revolution in France, (Contd.)

9/24: Walzer, Regicide and Revolution (1-92)

10/1: Walzer, Regicide and Revolution (1-92)

10/3: Walzer, Regicide and Revolution (120-192)

10/10: Walzer, Regicide and Revolution (120-192)

10/15: Maistre, Considerations on France

10/17: Maistre, Considerations on France

10/22: Paine, Common Sense

10/24: Paine, Common Sense

10/29: Paine, Rights of Man

10/31: Paine, Rights of Man (Contd.)

11/5: Federalist Papers

11/7: Federalist Papers

11/12: Federalist Papers

11/14: Arendt, On Revolution

11/19: Arendt, On Revolution (Contd.)

11/21: Arendt, On Revolution (Contd.)

11/ 26: Arendt, On Revolution (Contd.)

11/28: Nesbitt, Universal Emancipation

12/3: Nesbitt, Universal Emancipation

12/5: Nesbitt, Universal Emancipation (Contd.)

12/10: Hegel and Haiti

12/12: Hegel and Haiti, (Contd.)