

Class: L32 Pol Sci 392

History of Political Thought II: Legitimacy, Equality and the Social Contract

Date and Time: M-W 1:00 pm-2:30 pm, Seigle Hall 103

Instructor: Lorraine Krall

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Office hours: Monday 2:30-4:00

Course Description:

L32 Pol Sci 392. History of Political Thought II: Legitimacy, Equality and the Social Contract
Government is often justified as legitimate on the grounds that it is based on the consent of the governed. In this course, we examine the origins of this view, focusing our attention on canonical works in the social contract tradition, by Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679), John Locke (1632–1704), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778), David Hume (1711–1776) and Immanuel Kant (1724–1804). This course is the second in a three-semester sequence on the history of political thought. Students are encouraged but not required to take all three courses. Prerequisite: one previous course in political theory or political philosophy.

Democracy is often justified by the claim that the only legitimate government is one grounded in the consent of the governed. In HP II, we trace the origins of this view and spell out its implication. The course is built around the central texts of the social contract tradition found in the work of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. The class focuses on the particular views of social and political equality as developed by these thinkers and their contemporaries. Additionally, it considers the practical significance of their claims, such as their implications for the design of constitutions and other institutions. This course is designed to be the second in a three-semester sequence on the history of political thought, and students are encouraged but not required to take the courses in chronological sequence. Prerequisite: One previous course in political theory or political philosophy.

Required texts:

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (ed. Curley, Hackett)

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Ed. Macpherson, Hackett)

Rousseau, *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings* (Cambridge)

Rousseau, *The First and Second Discourses* (ed. and trans. Roger Masters, St. Martin's Press)

Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary* (Liberty Fund)

Course Schedule:

August 29: no class; I will be at the APSA conference

September 5: Introduction, Aristotle's *Politics*, Book 1: Ch. 1-5, 7, Book 3: 1-13

(<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/6762/6762-h/6762-h.htm>) **initial assignment due**

September 10: Aristotle's *Ethics*, Book 1: Ch. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9; Book 2: Ch. 1, 2, 4, 8, 9; Book 10: Ch. 9

(http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=903&layout=html)

September 12: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Frontespiece, Dedication, Introduction, Part I, Ch. 1-4
September 17: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 6, 7, 11, 12
September 19: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 13-15
September 24: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part 2, Ch. 17-19, Ch. 21
September 26: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 22-23, Ch. 26, Ch. 29-30
October 1: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 1-5
October 3: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 6-9
October 8: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 9-15
October 10: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 16-19
October 12: Friday, no class, **paper 1 due**
October 15: Locke, *An Essay Concerning Toleration*
(http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=2375&chapter=224902&layout=html&Itemid=27)
October 17: Film—Lord of the Flies
October 22: **Midterm**
October 24: Rousseau, Second Discourse, 1st half
October 29: Rousseau, Second Discourse, 2nd half
October 31: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book 1, Ch. 1-Book 2, Ch. 10
November 5: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book 2, Ch. 11-Book 3, Ch. 11
November 7: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book 3, Ch. 12-Book 4, Ch. 3, and Book 4, Ch. 8 and 9
November 12: Hume, “Of the First Principles of Government,” “Of the Origin of Government,”
“On the Dignity or Meanness of Human Nature” “Of Passive Obedience”
November 14: Hume, “Of the Original Contract,” “Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth”
November 16: Friday, no class, **paper 2 due**
November 19: Mayflower Compact
(http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?Itemid=264&id=1033&option=com_content&task=view),
Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
(http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1041&Itemid=264),
Declaration of Independence
(http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1177&chapter=208843&layout=html&Itemid=27), Constitution, preface
(http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html), Federalist 10
(http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=669&chapter=206181&layout=html&Itemid=27)
November 26: Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, selections
November 28: Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, selections
December 3: Sandel, “The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self”
December 5: Course summary
December 19: **Final**, 1-3 pm.

Grading:

Class participation: 15%
Paper 1: 25%
Paper 2: 25%
Midterm: 15%

Final: 20%

Class policies: No laptops permitted in class. Please see me if you would like to request an exception.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory; if you miss more than 2 classes without an official excuse, such as from a doctor, your participation grade will be lowered.

Participation: Active participation is expected. This requires a thorough reading and rereading of the text as well as careful reflection on the text. Come to class with questions. Your class participation grade will take into account not only on the quantity, but also the quality of your comments. If you are uncomfortable talking in class A) make an effort; B) you may email me a paragraph response to the reading and discussion so that your participation grade will not suffer.

Papers: Turn in all papers to me in hard copy as well as via email. If I do not receive a paper with you on the due date in both forms, your paper will be late until I do receive it in both forms. Each day that the paper is late, your final grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade (so if you would have gotten a B on the paper, one day late you would receive a B-). Please see me in advance if you have extenuating circumstances.

Paper layout: Your papers should be typed, double spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins. Citations of the text should be in a scholarly form (such as Chicago or MLA). Avoid colloquial phrases. If you are unsure of how to proceed, contact me or the writing center. I recommend running your paper topic by me during office hours; this is often helpful when you're in the middle of writing, but I can talk to you at any point. I will not read drafts of your paper; however, you should bring a one-page outline of your paper to my office hours.

Plagiarism: Academic honesty is critical. If you use a source for your paper, you must cite that source in the works cited. In addition, you must include a citation within the text of the paper itself. Direct quotations must be placed in quotation marks and cited. Plagiarism will not be tolerated—if I detect plagiarism, I will recommend that you receive a zero for the class. In addition, do not use wikipedia in your paper.

Grading: If you want to discuss the grade you've received on a particular assignment, 1) I require a written explanation of your reasons for asking for your grade to be reconsidered; 2) You must realize that your grade can go up or down when I reconsider it.

Rubric for paper grades:

A—An A paper will offer an strong, clear, nuanced, and persuasive argument, supported by the text. The organization will be clear and tight—each paragraph will follow in logical progression, each one tied back to the thesis. Quotations will be used to support the arguments; they will be integrated into the text of the paper and explained. The writing will be of high quality, with few grammatical errors.

B—A B paper will offer a strong argument, supported by the text. There will be small problems with either the organization, the integration of quotations, the grammar or the thesis and thesis development.

C—A C paper offers an argument that may miss some nuances, but is generally an accurate reflection of the text. There may be some serious problems with the organization, quotation integration, and/or grammar.

D—A D paper has serious problems with organization, writing, the paper's argument and/or grammar.

Initial assignment:

Please prepare a brief reflection on the nature of democracy. What is democracy? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Overall, is democracy advisable or inadvisable?

This assignment is due on Wednesday, September 5. Please bring it to class in hard copy. It should be no more than two pages double spaced. It will be part of your class participation grade. There is no need for you to refer to or cite external sources. Citing more than two is prohibited.