

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Political Science 374: Late Modern Political Theory
Fall 2007
MW 1:00-2:15 p.m., WRI C237

Professor David Fott
Office: WRI B217; 895-4187

Hours: MTuW 2:30-4:30 p.m., or by appointment
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This course examines two central political philosophers of the Enlightenment: Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Immanuel Kant. Rousseau is simultaneously a spokesman for the Enlightenment and a critic of it—an advocate of liberty, equality, and democracy, and a naysayer to the claim that an increasingly rational society would solve mankind’s moral and political problems. Kant, influenced by Rousseau, champions the view of morality as universally applicable to rational beings, but his political philosophy does not always reach the liberal views we might expect.

Readings:

The following books have been ordered for purchase and are (or will be) also at the library on two-hour reserve:

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The First and Second Discourses*. Edited by Roger D. Masters. Translated by Roger D. Masters and Judith R. Masters. Bedford/St. Martin’s, 1964. (on reserve for PSC 200.1)
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau. “*On the Social Contract*” with “*Geneva Manuscript*” and “*Political Economy*.” Edited by Roger D. Masters. Translated by Judith R. Masters. Bedford/St. Martin’s, 1978. (on reserve for PSC 200.1)
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *Politics and the Arts: Letter to M. d’Alembert on the Theatre*. Translated by Allan Bloom. Cornell Univ. Press, 1960.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Government of Poland*. Translated by Willmoore Kendall. Hackett, 1985.
- Immanuel Kant. *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Edited and translated by Allen W. Wood. Yale Univ. Press, 2002.
- Immanuel Kant. “*Toward Perpetual Peace*” and *Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History*. Edited by Pauline Kleingeld. Translated by David L. Colclasure. Yale Univ. Press, 2006.

For students who want additional information, suggested readings include chapters from the book *History of Political Philosophy* (available at the library on two-hour reserve for PSC 200.1) on Rousseau and Kant.

Schedule of Readings and Topics:

M Aug 27 Introduction

I. Rousseau

- W Aug 29 *Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts*, pp. 30-64
- M Sep 3 No class (Labor Day recess)
- W Sep 5 *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men*, pp. 76-113, including Rousseau’s notes, pp. 182-92
- M Sep 10 *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men*, pp. 113-41, including Rousseau’s notes, pp. 192-222

W Sep 12	<i>Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men</i> , pp. 141-81, including Rousseau's notes, pp. 223-28
M Sep 17	<i>Discourse on Political Economy</i> , pp. 209-36
W Sep 19	<i>Letter to M. d'Alembert on the Theatre</i> , pp. 1-47; paper #1 due
M Sep 24	<i>Letter to M. d'Alembert on the Theatre</i> , pp. 47-92
W Sep 26	<i>Letter to M. d'Alembert on the Theatre</i> , pp. 92-137
M Oct 1	<i>On the Social Contract</i> , pp. 45-77
W Oct 3	<i>On the Social Contract</i> , pp. 78-107
M Oct 8	<i>On the Social Contract</i> , pp. 108-32
W Oct 10	"Profession of Faith of the Savoyard Vicar," in <i>Emile</i> (on electronic reserves)
M Oct 15	<i>The Government of Poland</i> , pp. 1-30
W Oct 17	<i>The Government of Poland</i> , pp. 31-78
M Oct 22	<i>The Government of Poland</i> , pp. 79-116; paper #2 due

II. Kant

W Oct 24	<i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 1-8
M Oct 29	<i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 9-21
W Oct 31	<i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 22-33
M Nov 5	<i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 33-48
W Nov 7	<i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 48-62
M Nov 12	No class (Veterans Day recess)
W Nov 14	<i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 63-79
M Nov 19	"Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Perspective," pp. 3-16; "An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?" pp. 17-23; "Conjectural Beginning of Human History," pp. 24-36
W Nov 21	<i>Critique of Judgment</i> , secs. 83-84, pp. 37-43; "On the Common Saying: This May Be True in Theory, but It Does Not Hold in Practice," parts 2 and 3, pp. 44-66; paper #3 due
M Nov 26	<i>Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch</i> , pp. 67-85
W Nov 28	<i>Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch</i> , pp. 85-109
M Dec 3	<i>Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Doctrine of Right, pp. 110-38
W Dec 5	<i>Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Doctrine of Right, pp. 139-49; <i>The Contest of the Faculties</i> , part 2, pp. 150-63

Final examination: M Dec 10, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Format:

Sessions will combine lecture and discussion. It is imperative, therefore, that you come to class having done the assigned reading for that day. A superior method of preparation is to read the material twice: first fairly quickly in order to grasp the direction of the argument, then slowly and thoroughly, taking notes as you go. A list of questions for discussion for some of the readings is available at <<http://faculty.unlv.edu/dfott/>> (free Adobe Reader required).

Assignments:

Written assignments include:

1. An interpretive, analytical paper of 2 pages on a topic to be assigned (paper #1), which will count for 15% of your final grade.

2. Two interpretive, analytical papers concerning the assigned readings (not primarily research papers) of 5 to 7 pages each (papers #2 and 3). Topics will be assigned. Of the two papers, the one with the higher grade will count for 30% of your final grade, and the one with the lower grade 20%.
3. A final examination, which will count for 35% of your final grade. That examination will consist mainly or exclusively of essay questions.

The papers will be due at the beginning of class on the dates specified. You must complete all written assignments in order to pass the course. Your contribution in class may increase the grade on one of the assignments by one increment (e.g., from B to B+). Your grade may be reduced if you have more than three unexcused absences; lateness normally counts as an absence.

Extensions for submitting papers will be granted only in cases of emergency (e.g., personal illness, preferably with a note from a doctor; serious illness in one's family). The grade on a paper will be reduced by one increment for each day the paper is late without an approved extension (e.g., a paper of B+ quality will receive a B if it is one day late; a paper of B quality will receive a B-/C+ if it is two days late). No alternate arrangements for the examination will be made except in case of illness.

Other Information:

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By UNLV policy for the sake of students' privacy, faculty should send e-mail to students only via students' Rebelmail accounts. Please use that account to send me e-mail; if you use another account I will use my discretion in deciding whether to respond. For information see <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu>.

If you use a computer to take notes in class, I reserve the right to require you to send me by e-mail (via your Rebelmail account) a copy of your notes within twelve hours of a particular class. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of the grade.

Use of any other electronic device in class, except with prior permission, is prohibited and will be considered the equivalent of an absence for that class.

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for coordination of services. DRC is located in the Student Services Complex, room 137. The telephone number is 895-0866 (TTY 895-0652).