

—INTRODUCTION TO—  
**Social and Political Philosophy**

INSTRUCTOR	Matthew Johnson Department of Philosophy
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OFFICE HOURS	Mon. & Tues. 2:30-3:30p . . . <i>and by appointment</i> 528 South Kedzie Hall
CLASS MEETS	Mon., Wed., 12:40-2:00p C132 Holden Hall

### Course Description

This course investigates the nature of human society through confrontation with classic sources in the history of social and political philosophy that have conceptualized the relationship between human beings, society, and reason. Beginning with Hobbes' account of man in a 'state of nature' and ending with Marcuse's critical analysis of advanced capitalist society, we will explore philosophical approaches to the fundamental question of what it means to be social.

### Required Texts

Thomas Hobbes. 1996. *Leviathan* Revised Student Edition ed. Richard Tuck. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521567978.

Herbert Marcuse. 1991. *One Dimensional Man*. Boston: Beacon Press.  
ISBN-13: 978-0807014172

Karl Marx. 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert C. Tucker. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN-13: 978-0393090406.

Friedrich Nietzsche. 2007. *On the Genealogy of Morality* Revised Student Edition, ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson, trans. Carol Diethe. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 9780521691635

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. 1997. *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, ed. Victor Gourevitch. New York: Cambridge University Press.  
ISBN-13: 978-0521424455

## Course Requirements

- ▶ 5 reflection papers.....20% (4 pts each)
- ▶ 2 exams.....50% (25 pts each)
- ▶ Final paper.....30% (30 pts)

## Attendance

Although attendance is not formally weighted into your final course grade, because of the difficulty of the materials we will be studying, *students who do not regularly attend class will not be able to do well in this course*. Because I will not repeat what has been covered in class for students who cannot attend class, I recommend that all students have at least one or two other 'study buddies' who can stay in touch via e-mail and provide any necessary information.

## Reflection Papers

Over the course of the semester, students must submit five reflection papers. Each week, students will have the option to write a one page reflection paper in response to a prompt sent out via email by the previous Wednesday. These writing tasks will vary week by week. Students can choose which reflection responses to submit, but cannot submit more than five. Reflection papers are graded out of four points at half-point increments (i.e., [...], 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4).

Students must submit their reflection paper (not to exceed one page) by paper copy in class the following Monday. I will *not* accept reflection papers by e-mail.

Note: I recommend that you do the reflection each week, even if you do not turn it in, since this will give you the option to decide NOT to turn in a paper that you have reconsidered after discussing in class. Plus, the reflection papers will be good aids to the development of both your reading comprehension and writing skills.

## Final Paper

Students will submit a 200 word abstract of their final paper at the library tour on **Monday, March 1st**. The final paper must demonstrate the student's own research into some aspect of social and political philosophy. For this reason, it is vital that students begin thinking early on in the course about developing a paper topic. More information will be provided within the second week of class.

## Exams

There will be one in-class essay on Wednesday, March 3, and a final exam on Wednesday, May 5. The final exam is not cumulative.

## GRADING SCALE

4.0.....	100 - 93
3.5.....	92 - 87
3 .....	86 - 82
2.5.....	81 - 77
2 .....	76 - 72
1.5.....	71 - 65
1.0.....	64 - 60
0.0.....	< 60

**Academic Honesty**

[Article 2.3.3](#) of the Academic Freedom Report states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Philosophy adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

**SCHEDULE**

—revised 4/1/10—

MON 11 JAN	Course introduction.
WED 13 JAN	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Introduction, pp. 9-11, ch. 5, pp. 31-37
MON 18 JAN	No classes — Martin Luther King Day
WED 20 JAN	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , ch. 13-14, pp. 86-100
MON 25 JAN	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , ch. 17-18, pp. 117-129
WED 27 JAN	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , ch. 21, pp. 145-154
MON 1 FEB	Rousseau, <i>First Discourse</i> , pp. 2-15
WED 3 FEB	Rousseau, <i>First Discourse</i> , pp. 16-28
MON 8 FEB	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i> , pp. 112-128
WED 10 FEB	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i> , pp. 130-151 (§§34)
MON 15 FEB	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i> , pp. 151-170 (§§26)
WED 17 FEB	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i> , pp. 170-188
MON 22 FEB	Kant, <i>Idea for a Universal History</i> (PDF), pp. 3-9.
WED 24 FEB	Kant, <i>Idea for a Universal History</i> (PDF), pp. 9-16.
MON 1 MAR	<b>DRAFT ABSTRACT FOR FINAL PAPER IS DUE</b>
	Library tour
WED 3 MAR	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
MON 8 MAR	No classes — Spring Break
WED 10 MAR	No classes — Spring Break
MON 15 MAR	Nietzsche <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> , Preface - First Essay (§§6), pp. 3-16
WED 17 MAR	Nietzsche <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> , First Essay (§§7-§§17), pp. 16-34
MON 22 MAR	Nietzsche <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> , Second Essay (§§1-§§12), pp. 35-50
WED 24 MAR	Nietzsche <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> , Second Essay (§§13-§§25), pp. 50-67
MON 29 MAR	<b>FINAL ABSTRACT FOR FINAL PAPER IS DUE</b>
	Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> , pp. 146-175
WED 31 MAR	Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> , pp. 146-175
MON 5 APR	Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> , pp. 176-200; <i>Grundrisse</i> , pp. 222-226
WED 7 APR	Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> , pp. 176-200; <i>Grundrisse</i> , pp. 222-226
MON 12 APR	Marcuse, <i>One Dimensional Man</i> ch. 1-2, pp. 1-55
WED 14 APR	Marcuse, <i>One Dimensional Man</i> ch. 1-2, pp. 1-55
MON 19 APR	Marcuse, <i>One Dimensional Man</i> , ch. 8, pp. 203-224
WED 21 APR	Marcuse, <i>One Dimensional Man</i> , ch. 9, pp. 225-246
MON 26 APR	Marcuse, <i>One Dimensional Man</i> , ch. 10, pp. 247-257
WED 28 APR	Course Summary <b>FINAL PAPERS DUE</b>

**FINAL EXAM:**  
Wednesday, May 5th, 3:00-5:00p