

Poli 4082: Makers of the Modern World

Tu-Th: 130250. Tureaud 109.

Instructor: Alexander Orwin

Office hours: Stubbs 202, by appointment. Outdoor meetings preferred.

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Teaching Assistants: TBD

Content and Objectives

The human world as we know it was not made in a day: it did not, like the forests and bayous, sprout spontaneously from the earth. It was the result of a conscious human effort by some of the greatest minds to transform a (g)12 (r)-5 (e)6 (a)5 (t)2 (w)-8 (a)4 (s)-1 (o)2-5)12 (r)0un-1 (ul)-2 (t)- (he) who request it. In my humble opinion, spending a few dollars to own a work by a great thinker like Smith or Montesquieu is definitely worth it!

Required

Francis Bacon. *The Great Instauration and New Atlantis*. Ed. Jerry Weinberger, 2nd paperback edition. West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, 2017.

Rene Descartes. *Discourse on Method*. Trans. Richard Kennington, eds. Frank Hunt and Pamela Kraus. Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2007.

Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan*. Ed. Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. Trans. John Scott. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Recommended:

Montesquieu. The Spirit of the Laws. Ed. Anne Cohler et al. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2002.

Adam Smith. An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. Ed. R.H. Campbell et al. Liberty Fund, 1982.

Karl Marx. The Marx-Engels Reader. Ed. Richard Tucker. 2nd edition. New York: Norton 1978.

Additional Readings:

Jonathan Swift. Gulliver's Travels. I will provide handouts if you like what you get, buy any edition of the whole book afterwards!

Syllabus

Aug. 24: Introduction, Bacon, The Great Instauration, 2-

Aug. 26: Bacon, GA, 32

Sep. 7.: Bacon, GA, 33-56 (synopsis on 560 is also helpful)

Sep. 9: Bacon, New Atlantis, 62-87

Sep. 14: Bacon, NA, 87-110

Sep. 16: Bacon, Essays, 113-2

Sep. 21: Descartes, Discourse on Method, 132

Sep. 23: Descartes, DM, 32-47

Sep. 28: Descartes, DM, 48, Swift, Gulliver's Travels, 167-80

Sep. 30: Swift, GT, 181-208, 212-13, 221-30

Oct. 5: Hobbes, Leviathan, 74-100

Oct. 7: Hobbes, L, 101-135

Oct. 9: Hobbes, L, 136-64

Oct. 12: Hobbes, L, 210-244

Oct. 14: Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, 154-86

Oct. 19: Montesquieu, SI1,87-212

Oct 14: Midterm paper due.

Participation is mandatory, as a sign of alertness and preparedness in class. Half of the mark depends on your responses on the Forum expected every session, and half on your performance in class.

30%: Mid-term paper

This seven-page paper on a topic of your choice will be due on Oct. 14. You are encouraged to formulate your own topic, and may come to office hours in order to do so.

40%: Final exam

This ten-page paper on a topic of choice will be due in the exam period. Comparisons of two authors are encouraged.

Grading scale:

90-100: A 97-100: A+ 93-96: A 90-92: A-

80-89: B 87-90: B+ 83-86: B 80-82: B-

70-79: C 77-80: C+ 73-76: C 70-72: C-

60-69: D 67-70: D+ 63-66: D 60-62: D-

Under 60: F

Class Rules

For attendance, see the official policy <https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/policiesprocedures/policiesprocedures/22/>

Bring your books to class. They will be the primary focus of the lectures, which might be difficult to follow without them.

Both neuroscience and common sense teach that the growing array of electronic devices can be distracting. Please turn off all such devices in class. Those who refuse to comply may be asked to leave. Exceptions will be granted only by medically confirmed disabilities.

Please do not eat during class; however, drinking alcoholic beverages is permitted. Do not leave in the middle of class except for an emergency.

Dozing or talking to classmates is forbidden.

Violation of class rules might cost you attendance and participation marks.

