

POLI 4096, Fall 2020, TR 12:00-1:20 via Zoom

Alex Donovan Cole

Stubbs 231

1KWTM (T[]ML)

Virtual Office Hours by Appointment

Course Summary

Modern-Contemporary Political Thought (POLI 4096) is a survey course covering the major figures of modern political thought. As a result, the course overwhelmingly focuses on the concept of 'modernity.' Modernity is an oft-cited, but not well understood concept, encompassing a great number of topics: freedom, individuality, the self, God, morality, and the state. This concept was a matter of great concern for a number of German intellectuals, who argue for and against it. We will consider thinkers who practically embodied the concept like Descartes, Kant, and Freud; as well as its discontents such as Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Weber. Several thinkers as well, like Hegel, Marx, and Hume, whose approach to modernity is more complicated and nuanced who we will cover as well.

The goal of this course is to better understand not only the

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Essay Three How do Freud or Weber deviate from the ideas of Kant and Hegel? How

---

---

---



ÒIt is impossible to escape the impression that people commonly use false standards of measurement Ñ that they seek power, success and wealth for themselves and admire them in others, and that they underestimate what is of true value in life.Ó

-Sigmund Freud,

ÒThe philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point, however, is to change it.Ó

-Karl Marx, ÒTheses on FeuerbachÓ

Weber: ÒScience as a VocationÓ

Freud: ÒCivilization and its Discontents,Ó I, III, V, VIII

Marx: ÒTheses on FeuerbachÓ

### The Critique of Philosophy: Marx

ÒHegel remarks somewhere that all great world-historic facts and personages appear, so to speak, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.Ó

-Karl Marx, ÒThe Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis BonaparteÓ

ÒThe mode of production of material life determines the social, political and intellectual life process in general. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness.Ó

-Karl Marx,

, Chapters I, III, VI, VII

, Intro

### The Death and Rebirth of God: Nietzsche

ÒMadness is something rare in individuals Ñ but in groups, parties, peoples, epochs it is the rule.Ó

-Friedrich Nietzsche,

, Parts Two, Five, Eight, and Nine



## ADA Compliance

The University is committed to making reasonable efforts to assist individuals with disabilities in their efforts to avail themselves of services and programs offered by the University. To this end, Louisiana State University will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented qualifying disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, you must present a letter to me from Disability Services in 115 Johnston Hall, indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.