

CONTEMPORARY WESTERN CIVILIZATION II (Spring 2006)

F1102x – Section 056 • 607 Hamilton Hall • MW 6:10-8pm

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Structure and Course Requirements:

The course is structured as a seminar, with new readings assigned for each class. Discussion is important to this course, and you can expect to be called upon to give your views (if you don't volunteer them).

Readings and Participation: CC is a discussion seminar, not a lecture. Accordingly, your active participation is essential to the success of the class. You will be expected to complete the assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned, to bring the texts under discussion with you to class, and to come to class prepared to discuss them.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. According to a course-wide policy, students who accumulate more than four unexcused absences may be dropped from the course. More than three unexcused absences will result in your final grade falling by one third of a grade (e.g. A to A-). If you miss class, please e-mail me in advance (ab2058@columbia.edu). The only grounds on which absence will be excused are religious holidays, family crises, or illness; absence for the last two reasons must be explained by a note from a dean or a doctor. For each class, I keep track of students who are late. Accumulating several late arrivals will incur in a grade reduction of one sixth of a grade. If you have schedule conflicts, please come to speak to me.

Courseworks: You are required to post two (significant) questions no later than 4pm of the day of class. So, for example, for a Monday class at 6pm you should post by Monday at 4pm. You can skip four postings during the semester. Missing more than four will result in a substantial grade reduction (see below.) I keep track of late postings. Accumulating several of them will incur in a grade reduction of one sixth of a grade. If you have schedule conflicts, please come to speak to me.

In class presentation: Two in class presentations during the semester. Presentations can be focused exclusively on the assigned readings. The main goal is to pose a few significant questions inspired by the readings to the rest of the class. Presentations can be given in groups.

Quizzes: If necessary, I will assign some short in-class quizzes to test your completion of the daily readings.

In class examinations: Midterm (on 3.1.2006, class time) and Final (on 5.5.2006, from 12.30 to 3.30)

Written Assignments: Two papers, 1200 to 1600 words each. The first paper is due in class on Wednesday, February 15; the second paper is due in class on Monday, April 10. Papers should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, and all the page margins should measure one inch. Paper topics will be distributed one week to ten days in advance.

Required Texts:

Required texts include the standard CC package *plus* the following books available at the Columbia Bookstore:

Marcuse: *One-Dimensional Man* (Beacon Press)

The CC package, in part available at the Columbia Bookstore and in part accessible online from the CC home page, <http://www.college.columbia.edu/core> (top right corner), contains:

American, French, and Haitian Revolutions (CC Web)

Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Darwin: *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection*

De Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*

De Tocqueville: *Democracy in America*

Du Bois: *The Souls of Black Folk*

Freud: *Civilization and Its Discontents*

Foucault: *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prison*

Hegel: *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*

Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*

Kant: *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*

Marx and Engels: *The Marx-Engels Reader*

Mill, *On Liberty*

Nietzsche: *Genealogy of Morals*

Rousseau: *The Basic Political Writings*

Schmitt: *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*

Sen: *Poverty and Famine*

Smith: *The Wealth of Nations*

Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Woolf: *Three Guineas*

Grade Breakdown:

Courseworks/in-class presentations/quizzes/participation: 30%

Papers: 20% each

Midterm: 15%

Final: 15%

Penalties: In order to pass the class you are required to do *all* the coursework (e.g. completing one out of two papers will result in failing the class). Late papers incur in a penalty of one third of a letter grade per day (e.g. from A to A-). As for Courseworks, for each unexcused missing answer beyond the fourth a penalty of one third of a letter grade will be applied to your overall final grade.

Office Hours:

My office hours are Th from 3 to 4 in 301 Philosophy. I am also on campus at other times, and you can make an appointment to see me by e-mail (ab2058@columbia.edu). Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me about any aspect of the course.

Schedule:

Week 1

1.18 Introduction; Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (complete: 25-81)

Week 2

1.23 Wollstonecraft: *Vindication of the Rights of Women*: 1-4; 8-10

1.25 Woolf: *Three Guineas* (complete)

Week 3

1.30 De Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*: Intro; Ch. I; Ch. XII (only pp. 281-311); Ch. XVII (only pp. 509-519); Conclusion

2.1 Rousseau: *The Social Contract*: 141-178; 192-208

Week 4

2.6 American, French, and Haitian Revolutions (CC Web)

PAPER #1 TOPICS DISTRIBUTED

2.8 Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: 4-92; 216-218

Week 5

2.13 Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*: I-V; Appendix I and II; *The Dialogue*

2.15 Kant: *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*: 1-48

PAPER #1 DUE

Week 6

2.20 Nietzsche: *Genealogy of Morals*: First and Third Essays

2.22 Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (complete)

Week 7

2.27 Darwin: *Origin of Species*: Chapters III, IV, XI, XIV; pp.211-216

3.1

MIDTERM

Week 8

3.6 Du Bois: *The Souls of Black Folk*: I-VI; IX; XI; XIV

3.8 De Tocqueville: *Democracy in America*, vol. I: Intro; Part I: 3, 4; Part II: 1-3 and 6-8

Week 9

3.13 SPRING BREAK

3.15 SPRING BREAK

Week 10

- 3.20 NO CLASS – REPARATION CLASS ON 3.24
- 3.22 De Tocqueville: *Democracy in America*, vol.I, Part II, Ch. 10: pp. 370-376 (recommended 376-426); vol. II: "Author's Note to Second Volume"; Part I: 1,2,5; Part II: 1,2,4,5,7,8,9; Part III: 5,10,12,13; Part IV: 1,8

Week 11

- 3.27 Mill, *On Liberty*: I-IV
- 3.29 Schmitt: *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*: complete
#2 PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED

Week 12

- 4.3 Foucault: *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prison*: Part One; Part Three: Ch. 1 and 3
- 4.5 Violence and War Class: see sheet

Week 13

- 4.10 Smith: *The Wealth of Nations*: Book I: Ch. 1-8
DUE PAPER #2
- 4.12 Smith: *The Wealth of Nations*: Book II: pp. 299-321; Ch. 3; Book IV: Ch.2; pp. 663-675; pp. 839-846
- 4.14 CC course-wide Lecture: Emma Rotschildd

Week 14

- 4.17 Hegel: *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*: One-Four
- 4.19 Marx: *The Capital*: pp. 302-361

Week 15

- 4.24 Marx: *Manifesto*: pp. 469-500; Engels: 734-760
- 4.26 Marcuse: *One-Dimensional Man*: Intro to First Edition; pp. 1-34 (Recommended: Intro to Second Edition)

Week 16

- 5.1 Sen: *Poverty and Famine*: Preface; Chapters 1, 2, 10
- 5.3 Discussion session
- 5.5 Final (location TBD)