

GE CLUSTER 21B

THE HISTORY OF MODERN THOUGHT: 1790 TO 1968

Winter Quarter 2013, Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-12:15, De Neve Auditorium

This course is a continuation of GE21A, and brings our study of the history of modern thought into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our period begins with the euphoria and terror of the French Revolution and the promise and dangers of the Industrial Revolution. Intellectually, the period brought forth a new hope that economic and political progress may continue indefinitely, linked often to faith in science. That sense of progress was embodied most clearly in theories of evolution, which were applied to society and to the whole cosmos, and not only to biology. Expanded democratic participation was both welcomed and feared, and a new “social science” grew up in part to try to impose order on mass society. The course will examine biological, economic, social, philosophical, and literary efforts to comprehend this modern world.

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Grading: section participation (15%); three short-answer in-class midterm quizzes (about 20 minutes each; 15%); two take-home essays of about 5 pages each (40%); final exam (30%).

Required texts (available at ASUCLA store):

1. Malthus, *Essay on Population* [1798], *Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Geoffrey Gilbert*, Oxford University Press, 2008.
2. Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*, [1854] (Norton Critical Editions) 3rd Edition. WW Norton and Co. 2000.
3. John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford World's Classics), ed. John Gray. Oxford University Press, 2008.
4. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Oxford World Classics) ed. David McLellan, Oxford University Press, 1992 [1848].
5. Charles Darwin, *Darwin* (Norton Critical Editions) Philip Appleman ed., WW Norton and Co, 2000.
6. Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class* (Dover Thrift Editions)
7. Friederich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality* [1887], Tr. Alan Swensen and Maudmarie Clark, Hackett Co. Publishers, 1998
8. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, ed. James Strachey, WW Norton and Co.

SCHEDULE

Part 1: Political Economy and the Industrial Revolution

N.B.: The readings for each week are to be completed by the Monday lecture.

Week 1: Political Economy and The Industrial Revolution

Monday, January 7th Intro: Themes of the course, political, social and natural science; themes from previous quarter. Malthus, The Malthusian Dilemma, and the problem of time

Wednesday, January 9th : Political Economy from Smith to Babbage

Readings: Malthus, *Essay on Population* (1798) preface, chaps I-II, V, IX-X, XVIII-XIX (At the Bookstore)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, **TBD**.

Charles Babbage, *The Economy of Machinery and Manufactures* (1832), 121-149 (online)

Andrew Ure, *Philosophy of Manufactures* (1835), 277-290 (online)

Week 2: Utilitarianism and Hard Times

Monday, January 14th Dickens, Bentham, and Utilitarianism

Wednesday, January 16th

Readings: Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*, Book the First, 5-85 (the remainder is optional) (At the Bookstore).

Bentham TBD

Week 3: Mill on Liberty and Society

Monday, January 21st Martin Luther King Day, No Class.

Wednesday, January 23th *On Liberty*

Readings: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* Pages: *On Liberty* chapters 1-3 (p. 5-82) + *Subjection of Women* chapter 1 (471-501) (At the Bookstore).

Part 2: The Social and Biological Sciences

Week 4 Marx

Monday, January 28th : *The Communist Manifesto* and the revolutions of 1848 (QUIZ)

Wednesday, January 30th: *Das Capital* and the Mystery of money

Readings: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) (At the Bookstore).

Marx, *Capital* (1867), From Chapter 1 Read: pgs 125-139 (Section 1 and 2), pgs 163-177 (Section 4) (PDF online).

Week 5 Darwin

Monday, February 4th Darwin and Evolutionary Theory (PAPER #1 DUE)

Wednesday, February 6th Darwin cont'd

Readings:

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In Appleman, ed., *Darwin* (from *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*) 95-135, [optional: 158-174], 230-254; From Lamarck, *Zoological Philosophy* (pgs 44-49). (At the Bookstore).

Week 6 Evolutionary theory in the social sciences

Monday, February 11th Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics*

(Introduce Spring Seminars around here)

Wednesday, February 13th Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class*

Readings:

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics* (1898), chaps 1, 2, 4, pp. 1-39, 58-75 (PDF online)
Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899), 1-62, 151-168 (At the Bookstore).

Part 3: Modernity

Week 7 Nietzsche

Monday, February 18th Presidents Day. No class

Wednesday, February 20th *On the Genealogy of Morality*

Readings: Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, ages: 1-66 (First and Second Essays, third is optional). (At the Bookstore).

Week 8 Freud

Monday, February 25th Freud (QUIZ)

Wednesday, February 27th Freud Cont'd

Readings: Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (all) (At the Bookstore).

Week 9 Hayek, Keynes and modern economics

Monday, March 4th Keynes (PAPER #2 Due)

Wednesday, March 6th Hayek

Readings:

Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, Preface and Chapter 24 "Concluding Notes" (p. v-viii and 372-384; PDF Online); "The end of Laissez-faire (1926)" in *Essays in Persuasion* (p. 312-322, PDF online).

Hayek "Use of Knowledge in Society" *American Economic Review*, 1945 (p. 519-530, available online via JSTOR, link online).

Week 10 Foucault, Beauvoir

Monday, March 11th Beauvoir: existentialism, humanism and feminism

Wednesday, March 13th Sex and Punishment

Readings: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction (p. 13-29) (PDF online).

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (p. 170-178, 188-205); *History of Sexuality* v.1 (p. 258-272, 291-301, PDFs online).