

Syllabus for HIST 481: Seminar in History, Intellectual History

MWF 9:10-10:00, Glas. 205
Fall 2009, Dr. Ada Palmer

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Does history shape thought or does thought shape history? This introduction to the techniques of intellectual history explores the ways ideas are influenced by the historical experiences of their authors, and how those ideas in turn affect historical events. Readings include major works of Western thought, from Plato's *Republic* and Machiavelli's *Prince* to the American *Declaration of Independence* and Freud's *Civilization and its Discontents*, each examined with accompanying material covering the life, political experiences and intellectual background of the authors. For the research paper, students will select an important historical thinker of their choice and write an intellectual history exploring the relationship between that thinker's ideas and historical circumstances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Informed participation in all class sessions including peer review sessions; demonstration that you have done the reading (15% of final grade).
2. Three short papers, 5-6 pages each (60%; 20% each). Papers must be analytical (i.e., question-oriented), not mere summary. There are four assigned papers, one for each unit. All students are required to write the paper for the first unit (**Machiavelli, due Sept. 25th**). Students must write papers for TWO of the remaining three units, but may skip one paper of their choice (**Plato due Oct .14th, Freud due Oct 30th, Declaration of Independence due Nov 16th**). For the paper you skip you must still complete the Paper Preparation Assignment, do the reading and participate in peer review.
3. Final paper, 7-9 pages (25%; **first draft due Nov 23rd, final draft due Dec. 7th**); the grade for the final paper will be based on the rough draft, in-class presentation and final draft.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Machiavelli, *The Portable Machiavelli*, ed. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa (Penguin/Viking) ISBN 0140150927
2. Plato, *The Portable Plato*, ed. Scot Buchanan (Penguin/Viking) 0140150404
3. Freud, *The Freud Reader*, ed. Peter Gay. (Norton) 0393314030

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Reading assignments are listed under the day for which they must be completed.

- Week 1: Aug 31 (M) Introduction: What is Intellectual History?
Reading: none.
- Sept 2 (W) Problems in Intellectual History
Reading: *Philosophy & Theology in the Middle Ages*, G. R. Evans, chapter 1 (pp. 3-16; packet)
- 4 (F) The Craft of Intellectual History
Reading: "The Historical Context of Renaissance Philosophy" (pp. 1-37) from *Renaissance Philosophy*, Copenhaver & Schmitt (packet or e-reserve).

MACHIAVELLI UNIT:

- Week 2: 7 (M) The World of Renaissance Florence
Reading: "The Historical Context of Renaissance Philosophy" (pp. 37-59), Copenhaver & Schmitt (packet or e-reserve).
- 9 (W) The "*Calamita D'Italia*," events of Machiavelli's lifetime
Reading: Machiavelli, letters 3, 22, 25, 54, 70, 78, 90-92, 107, 110, 112, 115, 121, 166-169, 178, 203, 211-221 (e-reserve).
- 11 (F) Machiavelli's Personality and Experience
Reading: Machiavelli, letters 222-238, 269-274, 278, 305 (e-reserve).
- Week 3: 14 (M) The "Little Book on Princes"
Reading: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (in Portable Machiavelli). Required pp. 77-91, 111-146, 150-154, 157-166; optional all.
- 16 (W) *The Prince II: Utilitarian Moral Philosophy*
Reading: none.
- 18 (F) Machiavelli's Use of History: a not-so-little book on Republics
Reading: Machiavelli, *Discourses*, I 39, 43, 45, 55, 56, 58, II intro., 1, 5, 13, III 1-2, 9, 49 (in Portable Machiavelli). Approx. 20 pages total reading.
- Week 4: 21 (M) Presentation and discussion of proposed paper topics
Reading: none, Machiavelli Paper Preparation Assignment due.
- 23 (W) Practice Critiquing an Analysis
Reading: *The Portable Machiavelli* introduction.
- 25 (F) In-Class Debate: Machiavelli's Morality
Reading: none. MACHIAVELLI PAPER DUE (5-6 pp.)

PLATO UNIT:

- Week 5: 28 (M) Plato's Lifetime and the Character of Ancient Philosophy
Reading: Hadot, *What is Ancient Philosophy?*, part 1, pp. 9-38 (e-reserve)
- 30 (W) The Socratic Method at Work
Reading: Hadot ch. 5 (e-reserve); Plato, *Republic* 1-4
- Oct 2 (F) Metaphysics, Cosmology and Epistemology
Reading: Hadot ch. 5 (e-reserve); Plato, *Republic* 5-7
- Week 6: 5 (M) Ethics and the Philosophical Life
Reading: Plato, *Republic* 8-10, *Phaedo*, brief selections, from *Portable Plato*; (optional *Phaedrus* selections and *Meno* selections, e-reserve)
- 7 (W) Presentation and discussion of proposed Plato paper topics

9 (F) Reading: none, Plato Paper Preparation Assignment due.
Peer Review of Machiavelli Papers
Reading: assigned peer papers.

Week 7: 12 (M) COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY
Reading: none.
14 (W) In-Class Debate: Virtue Ethics and Utilitarianism
Reading: none. PLATO PAPER DUE (5-6 pp.)

FREUD UNIT:

16 (F) The Advent of Psychoanalysis
Reading: Intro, Chronology, Anna O, Letters to Fliess in *The Freud Reader*

Week 8: 19 (M) Formalized Theory; Philosopher vs. Doctor
Reading: *The Ego and the Id*, pp. 630-645 in *The Freud Reader*.
21 (W) Freud in Final Form
Reading: *Civilization and its Discontents*, pp. 722-742
23 (F) The Death Instinct
Reading: *Civilization and its Discontents*, remainder.

Week 9: 26 (M) Freud's Self-Portrait
Reading: *An Autobiographical Study* (pp. 3-8, 30-41) in *The Freud Reader*
Freud Paper Preparation Assignment due.
28 (W) Peer Review of Plato Papers
Reading: assigned peer papers.
30 (F) In-Class Discussion: Ancient and Modern Models of the Mind
Reading: none. FREUD PAPER DUE (5-6 pp.)

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE UNIT:

Week 10: Nov 2 (M) The Specter of Leviathan.
Reading: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 13-14 and 17-21 (e-reserve)
4 (W) Locke's Solution
Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise of Civil Government*, I-V, VII, VIII, XVIII, XIX. <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/l/locke/john/l81s/>
6 (F) *The Declaration of Independence and The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.*
Reading: *The Declaration of Independence and The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* (e-reserve);
List of 3-5 proposed final paper topics due.

Week 11: 9 (M) The Enlightenment Adaptation
Reading: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I complete, Book II 1-6. (e-reserve) (Optional : Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Books 1-3; e-reserve)
11 (W) The American Case
Reading: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (selections, e-reserve) and Samuel Adams, *A List of Infringements and Violations of Rights*.
13 (F) Presentation of Declaration of Independence paper topics AND
Peer Review of Freud Papers.

Reading: Reading: assigned peer papers. Declaration of Independence Paper Preparation Assignment due.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER:

Week 12:	16 (M)	Writing Workshop Reading: none. <u>DEC. OF IND. PAPER DUE (5-6 pp.)</u>
	18 (W)	Writing Workshop Reading: none. <u>Final Paper Preparation Assignment due.</u>
	20 (F)	Writing Workshop Reading: none.
Week 13:	23 (M)	Writing Workshop <u>FIRST DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE</u>
	25 (W)	Writing Workshop Reading: none.
	27 (F)	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY Reading: none.

Drafts of Final Paper are due by e-mail 48 hours before your presentation.

Week 14:	30 (M)	Research Presentations round 1 Reading: none.
Dec	2 (W)	Research Presentations round 2 Reading: none.
	4 (F)	Research Presentations round 3 Reading: none.
Week 15:	7 (M)	Research Presentations round 4 <u>FINAL DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS</u>

ELECTRONIC RESERVES

For Introductory Unit:

- 1) Evans, G. R. *Philosophy and Theology in the Middle Ages*. Chapter 1 (pp. 3-16).
- 2) Kors, Alan. *Atheism in France*. Chapters one and three (pp. 17-43 and 81-109).

For Machiavelli unit:

- 3) "The Historical Context of Renaissance Philosophy" (pp. 1-59) from *Renaissance Philosophy*, Copenhaver & Schmitt.
- 4) Machiavelli, Niccolo. *Machiavelli and his Friends*, James B. Atkinson and David Sices ed. Northern Illinois University Press, 1996. Introductions to all sections, letters 3, 22, 25, 54, 70, 78, 90-92, 107, 110, 112, 121, 166-169, 203, 211-238, 269-274, 278 & 305.

For Plato unit:

- 5) Pierre Hadot, *What is Ancient Philosophy?* (Harvard) 067413735; chapters 1-6.
- 6) Plato, *Phaedrus* selections (the charioteer of the soul)
- 7) Plato, *Meno* selections (knowledge as recollection memory)

For Declaration of Independence unit:

- 8) Jefferson, Thomas. *Declaration of Independence*. 1776. In *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789*, Volume V, [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906], 510.
- 9) *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*. 1789. French and English.
- 10) Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*, ch 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. 50+ pp. (possible to cut 19 & 20 on 3 types and despotism)
- 11) Locke, John. 1690. *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*, I-V, VII, VIII, XVIII, XIX. (<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/l/locke/john/181s/>)
- 12) Montesquieu. *Spirit of the Laws* Books 1-3 complete (pp. 3-30).
- 13) Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Social Contract*, Book I complete, Book II 1-6. (pp. 49-82).
- 14) Adams, Samuel. *A List of Infringements and Violations of Rights* (1772).
- 15) Paine, Thomas. "Common Sense". February 14, 1776. Beginning through "Thoughts of the Present State of American Affairs" (stop before "Of the Present Ability of America, with some Miscellaneous Reflections").
<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=38>

Attendance and Late Assignments:

Attendance is mandatory. Students will be penalized after more than three absences, except in the case of university-excused absences or absences arranged with permission of the instructor. Attendance and informed participation in discussion is 15% of your grade, enough to knock a B down to a C or boost a B up to an A. If you attend all classes and participate actively in discussion it will boost your grade; if you are frequently absent and fail to do enough reading to participate in discussion it will lower your grade.

Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm> for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1).

If you know in advance that you will miss a class, for any reason (athletics event, arts retreat, family reunion, out-of-town music festival), let the instructor know in advance; a pre-arranged absence will ALWAYS lower your grade less than an unexcused absence.

Assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty (determined case-by-case) except in the case of university-excused absences or by prior arrangement with the instructor. If you will be unable to turn in an assignment on time, contact the instructor in advance. A pre-arranged late paper will ALWAYS lower your grade less than an unannounced late paper.

ADA:

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you

have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

Plagiarism:

Academic Integrity: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”
You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.