Jennifer Spruill                                                        Writing Advisor

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Office Hours: Friday, 11:00am                             [sjeffries@uchicago.edu](mailto:sjeffries@uchicago.edu)

VIA ZOOM                                                              Office hours: 1-4pm on Wednesdays

extended hours prior to papers                             Gates Blake 319; sign up using [this link](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/HarperHours@uchicagoedu.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/?skipRedirect=1)

**Power, Identity, Resistance**

Social Sciences 11400, Autumn 2024, Section 4

*Liberalism and Its Critics*

This quarter considers a particular set of theoretical and historical arguments about the relationship between society and the state.  We examine core ideas in the tradition of liberal political theory together with critical alternatives to that tradition.  We will wrestle with central categories of modern liberal thought, like individuality, equality, property, liberty; and think about the nature of political community, the origins of states and the proper limits of public authority.  The aim of the course is not to convince you of the validity or invalidity of the arguments of either the liberals or their critics.  Rather, the aim is to understand that there are important disagreements about the very first principles that structure our political lives and to experience the value of engaging in reasoned debate about these questions.

COURSE GOALS

As a Core class, the primary concern of this course it to develop scholarly skills and dispositions rather than provide an introduction to a particular discipline or field of knowledge. These skills will be critical for the remainder of your time here in your major and elective classes, and in whatever you choose to do after college. By the end of this year you will be able to read complex original texts; you will be able to understand their arguments and engage in critical conversation about them; you will be able to use these arguments to produce important social analysis and you will be able to make your own convincing written arguments. All the elements of the course are designed to accomplish these goals.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Class Participation

Each student’s engagement in this class is critical for the success of the class as a collective endeavor, and critical for your own intellectual development. Therefore, attendance and participation will be considered heavily and will comprise 20% of the final grade (if you need to miss a class, let me know via email. Please do not attend class if you are ill but do \*not\* get medical documentation for missing class).  Productive class engagement requires particular classroom conditions and “participation” can take many forms.

2. Commonplace Book

Starting Week 2, each student will submit a Commonplace Book entry for either the Tuesday or the Thursday class by 8pm the night before (see Canvas assignment for details). This will sharpen your reading, deepen your thinking, and aid your preparation for class. At the end of the quarter, you will submit an index for your book when you submit your final project. Commonplace Books will comprise 5% of your grade.

3. Major Assignments

There will be two papers during the quarter and a final web page project for the course, each of which will determine 25% of the course grade. The papers will be 1300-1500 words. **There will be a required workshop with our Writing Advisor before each paper is due and one required individual meeting with the Writing Advisor sometime during the quarter**.  We’ll discuss the details of the final project later in the quarter, but it will likely center around a visit to the Smart Museum.

POLICIES

DEADLINES:  It is easier to finish the course with a solid grade if you complete the assignments on time as we move through the quarter. In order to allow for some flexibility during the quarter, there will be an automatic 48 hour “grace period” on the paper deadlines, so it isn’t necessary to request extensions if it turns out you need one.  Please note that this doesn’t simply change the due date for the paper – it’s providing everyone an automatic extension, so if you find you aren’t able to turn in the paper by the due date, you already have your extension. [This means there's never a need to ask for an extension -- you already have one.] I’m not able to do this for the final because I allow until the end of finals period to turn in your project, so I can’t extend past that (because I need to meet the grade submission deadline).

CELLPHONES must be turned off during class; no texting or taking calls during class.

LAPTOPS may be used when necessary for class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated with the utmost seriousness.  All such cases will result in failure of the assignment and possible failure of the class.  Any case of students posting papers to repository site will result in failure of the class.  All cases will be reported to the Dean of Students.

AI – In this course, we will be developing skills and knowledge that are important to discover and practice on your own. As use of AI tools inhibits development of these skills and knowledge, students are not allowed to use AI tools in this course unless instructed otherwise for an exercise in class. Students are expected to present work that is their own without assistance from automated tools. If you are unclear whether something is an AI tool, check with me. Using AI tools for use in this course without clear permission will violate the University’s academic integrity policy and all suspected cases of AI use will be reported to the Dean of Students office.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATION: Let me know if you need to miss class or move a deadline for religious observation.

ACCESSIBILITY: If elements of the learning environment or activities present barriers to your full participation, please let me know as soon as possible so we can develop strategies to meet your needs and the requirements of the course. To this end, I invite you to discuss accessibility measures with me as soon as possible and I encourage you to register with Student Disability Services right away. Disclosure of disability status is up to you, and that choice is protected by federal law.

UChicago Accessibility Statement:

The University of Chicago is committed to ensuring equitable access to our academic programs and services. Students with disabilities who have been approved for the use of academic accommodations by​ ​Student Disability Services​ ​(SDS) and need a reasonable accommodation(s) to participate fully in this course should follow the procedures established by SDS for using accommodations. Timely notifications are required in order to ensure that your accommodations can be implemented. Please meet with me to discuss your access needs in this class after you have completed the SDS procedures for requesting accommodations.

OFFICE HOURS:  Generally, office hours will be in a “town hall” format – I’ll open the zoom meeting and students can just come and go.  Extended hours the Friday before a paper is due will be by appointment, for which I will post a sign-up the day before.  If you’d like to meet by appointment otherwise, just send me an email.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (Hackett)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality and On the Social Contract* (Chicago)

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Oxford World Classics)

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman and A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (Oxford Classics)

David Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* (Penn State U Press)

***SCHEDULE OF READINGS***

WEEK 1

1 OCT Introduction

3 OCT Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction, Part I, “Of Man,” Chs. 1-11

WEEK 2

8 OCT Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, “Of Man,” Chs. 12-15

10 OCT Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, “Of Commonwealth,” Chs. 16-24

**NB: Class will be held in Regenstein Special Collections**

WEEK 3 – WRITING WORKSHOP THIS WEEK

15 OCT Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, “Of Commonwealth,” Chs. 25-30

17 OCT Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chs. 1-6

**First paper due 21 OCT**

WEEK 4

22 OCT Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chs. 7-13

24 OCT Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chs. 14-19

WEEK 5

29 OCT Rousseau, *On the Origins of Inequality*, Letter to the Republic of Geneva, Preface, Part I

31 OCT Rousseau, *On the Origins of Inequality*, Part II 

WEEK 6

5 NOV Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book I, Book II

7 NOV Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book III, Book IV (In Book IV, only Chs. 1- 3, 7-9)

WEEK 7 – WRITING WORKSHOP THIS WEEK

12 NOV Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 3-97

14 NOV Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 97-142, 160-199

**Second Paper Due 18 Nov**

WEEK 8

19 NOVWollstonecraft, A *Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Intro-Ch.4, pp. 65-149*

21 NOV Wollstonecraft, A *Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Chapters 5-11, pp. 150-240*

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

WEEK 9

3 DEC Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*, Preamble, Articles I and II

5 DEC Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*, Articles III and IV

**NB: Class will likely be held in the Smart Museum**

**FINAL PROJECT DUE FRIDAY OF FINALS WEEK**