**Classics of Social and Political Thought III**

**Social Sciences (SOSC) 15300, Section 16**

**Spring Quarter 2018**

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-6pm**

**Harper Memorial Library, Room 145**

Instructor: Danielle Charette ([dcharette@uchicago.edu)](mailto:dcharette@uchicago.edu))

**Office Hours**: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30pm, A-Level in the Regenstein Library

**Course Overview:**

This course is a collaborative exploration of classic texts in social and political thought. We will consider works by a range of authors writing between the French Revolution and the mid-20th Century, with a focus on the contested ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

**Required Texts:**

• Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, trans. Goldhammer (Library of America)

• John Stuart Mill, On Liberty and Other Essays, ed. Gray (Oxford)

• Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. Tucker (Norton)

• Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, ed. Clark & Swenson (Hackett)

• W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk, ed. Blight & Gooding-Williams (Bedford)

• Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex, trans. Borde & Malovany-Chevallier (Vintage)\*

\*recommended for purchase but will also be available on Canvas

Supplementary readings listed on the syllabus will be posted to the course’s Canvas site.

In order to facilitate common discussion, please use these particular editions of the texts and to bring your copy of the relevant text to class. They are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op or Barnes and Noble bookstores.

**Course Requirements:**

Writing: This course requires you to write two papers. Due dates are listed below and details and prompts for the assignments will follow.

Participation: Regular attendance and active participation are essential to your success. Think of this seminar as an ongoing conversation—one that will be much more interesting and enlightening if everyone contributes. Quality of participation is much more important than quantity, but you should strive to contribute regularly to class discussions. If you have any worries about speaking in class or what makes for a quality contribution, please talk with me so we can go over strategies for ensuring your active engagement.

**Grading:**

Written work: 70%

-Paper 1 (about 2,000 words/7 pages): 30%

-Paper 2 (~2,000 words): 40%

Participation: 30%

You must complete *both papers* and *earn a passing grade on participation* in order to pass the course.

**Late Papers:** Late papers will be penalized at the rate of one-third of a letter grade for each day late. Extensions will be granted only for documentable cases of illness or emergency.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Unless you require the use of an electronic device as part of the accommodation of a disability, please do not bring laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices to class. Think of this course as a chance to practice taking notes the old-fashioned way. Who knows? You may even find written notes help you understand the material better.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism is a serious and very avoidable offense. Familiarize yourself with the University’s guidelines on plagiarism and proper citation here: https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/Policies. For this course, the easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to simply stick with reading the primary sources; we won’t be consulting secondary works for any of your assignments.

**Reading Assignments:**

Monday, March 26: Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Introduction to Vol. One (pp. 3-17)

Wednesday, March 28: Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Vol. One, Part I, chapters 2-4 (pp. 31-65), chapter 5 (pp. 66-77 only); Part II, chapters 1-4 (pp. 195-223), chapter 5 (pp. 224-30 only)

Monday, April 2: Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Vol. One, Part II, chapters 6- 9 (pp. 264-364)

Wednesday, April 4: Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Vol. One, Part II, chapter 10 (pp. 365-436, 455-61, 470-76)

Monday, April 9: Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Vol. Two: Preface (pp. 479-80); Part I, chapters 1-2 (pp. 483-93); Part II, chapters 1-10 (pp. 581-619), chapter 20 (649-52); Part III, chapter 5 (669-78), chapters 9-13 (692-710); Part IV, chapters 1-8 (787-834)

Wednesday, April 11: Mill, On Liberty, chapter 2 (pp. 18-54), The Subjection of Women, chapter 1 (pp. 409-436)

Monday, April 16: Mill, The Subjection of Women, chapter 2 (pp. 436-454), chapter 3 (only pp. 455-465), chapter 4 (pp. 484-505)

Wednesday, April 18: Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” (pp. 26-52); “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right” (pp. 53-54 only)

Monday, April 23: Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (pp. 70- 105 only); Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (pp. 3-6); Capital, (pp. 302-312, 319- 329)

Wednesday, April 25: Marx, Capital, 336-43, 344-61; Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (pp. 469-500)

**FIRST PAPER DUE BY FRIDAY, APRIL 27 AT 6PM**

Monday, April 30: Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, Preface and First Treatise (pp. 1-33)

Wednesday, May 2: Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, Second Treatise (pp. 35- 66)

Monday, May 7: Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, Third Treatise (pp. 67- 118)

Wednesday, May 9: Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk, Forethought, 1, 3-6: pp. 34–44, 62-102

Monday May 14: Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk, pp. 133-195

Wednesday May 16: **No class.**

Monday, May 21: Beauvoir, The Second Sex, Introduction (pp. 3-48); part 2, chapters 1-2 (pp. 71-89). \*On Canvas

Wednesday, May 23: Beauvoir, The Second Sex, Conclusion (pp. 753-66).

Arendt, “Truth and Politics.” \*On Canvas

Monday, May 28: **No Class. Memorial Day.**

Wednesday, May 30: Shklar, “Obligation, Loyalty, Exile.” \*On Canvas

**Review session.**

**SECOND PAPER DUE BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6 (by 6 pm)**