The Catholic University of America  
Department of History  
Spring, 2010  

HISTORY 553: Classics of Social Thought  
Tuesdays, 5:10-7:00pm  
Prof. Jerry Z. Muller  
McGivney Hall 005  

Office Hours:  
105 Cardinal Hall  
W 2:30-3:30pm  
Th 3:30-4:15pm, and by appointment  
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This course examines the great works of modern social science, works of ongoing interest and influence that have achieved the status of classics. Each work is studied in its historical context, but with an eye to bringing out the themes of perennial interest for the study of society, history, politics, economics, psychology and culture.

Requirements:  
Graduate students: one short paper (c.10-15 pages), either examining key issues in the primary texts of one or more of the thinkers; or surveying key secondary literature on one of the thinkers explored in the course; plus a take-home final of approximately fifteen pages.

Undergraduate students: one short paper (c.10 pages), surveying key primary texts or secondary literature on one of the thinkers explored in the course; plus a take-home final of approximately fifteen pages.

Both undergraduate and graduate students should consult with Prof. Muller about the subject matter and relevant bibliography for their papers.

Grades will be based upon the papers, the final exam, and class participation.

Be sure to bring the relevant books (in the editions noted below) to class on the days indicated.

Jan. 12: Introduction; An Overview of the Course
Jan. 19: Method in Intellectual History; Introduction to Hobbes

Recommended:
Donald R. Kelley (Editor), The History of Ideas: Canon and Variations (The Library of the History of Ideas, Vol 1) (Univ of Rochester Press, 1990);
Morton White, "Why Annalists of Ideas Should be Analysts of Ideas," The Georgia Review, XXIX, (Winter, 1975);
Dominick LaCapra, "Rethinking Intellectual History and Reading Texts, in LaCapra and Steven Kaplan (ed.) Modern European Intellectual History (Cornell University Press,, 1982), pp.47-85;
Reading: from editorial front matter, “Purposes and Features of This Edition”
- from the book itself: Introduction; Part I, chapters i-xiii (recommended xiv-xv);
Part II, xvii-xviii; xxix-xxxi;

Recommended:
Curley introduction to Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Hobbes, *Behemoth or The Long Parliament* ed Holmes (Chicago, 1990);
Rogers, G.A.J. (ed.), *Leviathan: Contemporary Responses to the Political Theory of Thomas Hobbes*
Strauss, Leo, *Natural Right and History* (University of Chicago Press, 1953), esp.ch.III,IV,V.
Leo Strauss, *The Political Philosophy of Hobbes: Its Basis and Its Genesis* (1936; reprinted by University of Chicago Press);
Wootton, David (ed.), *Divine Right and Democracy: An Anthology of Political Writing in Stuart England*
Feb. 2: Hobbes, *Leviathan*; Introduction to Adam Smith  
Reading: Part III, ch.xxxii-xxxiv; xxxvii; Part IV, ch.xliv (to end of paragraph 11); xlvii (pp.411-417; 477-484)  


On the reception of Hobbes see these volumes:  

Reading: Parts I, II, iii, III (pp.11-78; 103-110; 131-197)  
Muller, *Adam Smith in His Time and Ours*, pp.1-62; 93-112  

Recommended:  
Hanley, Ryan *Adam Smith and the Character of Virtue* Cambridge UP 2009  
For bibliography see Ryan, “Suggestions for Further Reading” and Muller, *Adam Smith*  

Muller, *Adam Smith in His Time and Ours*, pp.63-92; 113-205  


Muller, *Adam Smith in His Time and Ours*, pp.113-205  

Introduction to Tocqueville
Mar. 9: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* trans. Goldhammer (Library of America), NB: Consult the chronology at the end of this volume
Author's Introduction; Vol 1, Part I, chapters 2-4, end of chapter 5; Vol. 1, Part II, chapters 5-9

Recommended:
Kramnick, Isaac, “Introduction” to the Penguin edition of *Democracy in America*
Tocqueville, *Recollections*
*Tocqueville on America after 1840: Letters and Other Writings*, edited and translated, with an interpretative essay, notes, and appendices by Aurelian Craiutu and Jeremy Jennings (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009)
Selected Letters on Politics and Society by Alexis De Tocqueville, ed. Roger Boesche (Univ California Press, 1986);

Larry Siedentrop, *Tocqueville* (Oxford Past Masters)
Hugh Brogan, Hugh, *Tocqueville* (1973)
Roger Boesche, *The Strange Liberalism of Alexis De Tocqueville* (Cornell Univ Press, 1987);

Benjamin Constant, “The Liberty of the Ancients compared with that of the Moderns,” in *Constant: Political Writings* ed. B. Fontana (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought);
Stephen Holmes, *Benjamin Constant and the Making of Modern Liberalism* (Yale UP, 1984);

Mar. 16: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*; Introduction to Marx

Mar.23: Marx, *Selected Writings* ed. Simon
*Muller, The Mind and the Market*, ch.7

Elster, Jon, *An Introduction to Karl Marx* (Cambridge, 1986);
Seigel, Jerrold, *Marx’s Fate: The Shape of a Life* (Princeton, 1978);
Sowell, Thomas, *Marxism: Philosophy and Economics*
for further research: Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe
Mar. 30: NO CLASS  Paper Due

Appendix II: “Prefatory Remarks to Collected Essays in the Sociology of Religion” (1920)
Muller, *The Mind and the Market*, ch.9
Introduction to Durkheim

Recommended:
Weber, *Economy and Society*
Wolfgang Mommsen and Jürgen Osterhammel (ed.), *Max Weber and his Contemporaries* (GHI, 1987)

Apr. 13: Durkheim, *Suicide*: Introduction to Freud
Introduction (Durkheim’s, not the editors), Book 1, ch.3; Book 2, ch.1-5; book 3, ch.1 (pp. 15-32; 147-232; 262-307)

Recommended:
Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* trans. Fields (Free Press, 1995);
Steven Lukes, *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work* (1975)
Dominick LaCapra, *Emile Durkheim: Sociologist and Philosopher* (Chicago, 1972)

Apr. 20: Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*
pp.5-6; 78-169; 330-412

Recommended:
The *Cambridge Companion to Freud* ed. Jerome Neu
Philip Rieff, *Freud: The Mind of the Moralist* (3rd ed.)
H. Stuart Hughes, *Consciousness and Society*, chapters 1,2,4.
Frederick Crews (ed.) *The Memory Wars: Freud’s Legacy in Dispute* (New York, 1995)

Simmel, The Philosophy of Money trans. Bottomore and Frisby
Kurt Wolff (ed.), The Sociology of Georg Simmel (Free Press)
Poggi, Gianfranco, Money and the Modern Mind: Georg Simmel’s Philosophy of Money
Klaus Lichtblau, Georg Simmel (Frankfurt, 1997)

Final Take-home exam due Friday, May 5 by noon.

Required primary works (in order)

Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan ed. Curley (Hackett: 0-87220-177-5)


Tocqueville, Alexis de, Democracy in America trans. Goldhammer (Library of America: 978-1-931082-54-9)

Marx, Karl, Selected Writings ed. Simon (Hackett: 0-87220-218-6)


Durkheim, Emile, Suicide: A Study in Sociology (Penguin Classics: 978-0140449679)

Freud, Sigmund, The Interpretation of Dreams (Oxford UP: 0-19-282352-3)

Simmel, Georg, Georg Simmel on Individuality and Social Forms ed. Levine (University of Chicago: 0-226757765)
Among the most useful general reference works which you may want to consult for this course in the Reference Room of Mullen Library are:

Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences

International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences

The New Palgrave (on the history of economic thought)

Dictionary of the History of Ideas

Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe

Thoughtful guides to several of the thinkers we will be reading include:

Aron, Raymond, Main Currents in Sociological Thought, 2 Volumes,
-- on Tocqueville, Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Coser, Lewis, Masters of Sociological Thought, Second Edition
-- on Marx, Durkheim, Weber


Strauss, Leo and Joseph Cropsey (ed.) History of Political Philosophy, Third Edition -- on Smith, Tocqueville, Marx