

ILS 206
Professor Anderson

II, 1988-89
Syllabus

WESTERN CULTURE: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL THOUGHT II

We tend to take our basic ideals and values for granted. We are so accustomed to thinking about politics and economics in terms of individual liberty, political democracy, and a capitalist free enterprise system that these ideas seem almost platitudes. However, once these ideas were surprising. They were revolutionary and controversial. Furthermore, they rest on some very peculiar philosophic foundations. We shall try to recapture some of the spirit of discovery and novelty that accompanied the complex evolution of contemporary political economic thought.

This is a course in how we came to think about politics and economics as we do. We survey the evolution of political economic theory from 1650 to the present, focusing on the two great ideological systems of our age: Liberalism and Marxism. The cast of characters includes Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Jeremy Bentham, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, V.I. Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Fidel Castro, Mao Zedong, Michel Gorbachev, John Maynard Keynes, and Milton Friedman. We will try to show how our contemporary public controversies and arguments are part of a conversation that started over three hundred years ago.

A major purpose of the course is to begin the process of learning how to use these systems of thought with care and precision as tools for analyzing issues of public policy and the relationship of state and society.

The course is part of the ILS program of interdisciplinary studies. Therefore, we will be constantly aware of the relationship of developments in scientific theory to political economic thought and of the way in which such ideas are linked to the general cultural currents of an age.

The course is part of a year sequence and continues from ILS 205 which deals with classic political economic thought. The object is to see the Western tradition as a whole. You are welcome to take either semester (or, if you are really perverse, to take the courses in reverse order). However, entering in the second semester is a little like coming into a movie at intermission and it will take a few weeks to catch on to the plot.

Work of the Course:

Readings: The following books are available for purchase from the bookstores. Required readings are listed in the right hand column of the outline.

- E. Barker, THE SOCIAL CONTRACT
- R. Heilbroner, THE WORDLY PHILOSOPHERS
- K. Marx, and F. Engels, THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO
- J.S. Mill, ON LIBERTY
- J. Dewey, LIBERALISM AND SOCIAL ACTION

In addition, there is a WORKBOOK OF SELECTED READINGS FOR ILS 206 available for purchase from Bob's Copy Shop, University Square, Assignments from this are noted as "Sel. Rdgs." in the outline.

Exams: There will be a six week, twelve week and final exam. Exams are written in class but based on essay questions distributed in advance. If the grade on the first exam is more than two grades lower than the average of all other grades, and there is evidence of conscientious effort, it will not be counted in computing the final grade.

The final grade is calculated as follows: six week 25%; twelve week 25%; final 40%; discussion section performance 10%.

OUTLINE

<u>DATE</u> (historic dates in parentheses)	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
<u>Jan. 23-27</u>	INTRODUCTION Philosophy, politics and economics ...Criticism and collapse of the classic tradition...the problem of reconstruction of modern thought	
<u>Jan. 30-Feb. 25</u>	THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBERAL TRADITION	
(1651)	1. Thomas Hobbes...the social contract...Cartesian skepticism and the reconstruction of political theory	LEVIATHAN (Sel.Rdgs.)
(1690)	2. John Locke...Natural rights and the formation of liberalism	SECOND TREATISE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT (Barker)

(1762)

3. Jean Jacques Rousseau...the Enlightenment...the social contract and the general will ...romanticism and politics

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT (Barker)

Feb. 20-March 15

THE POLITICAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF LIBERALISM

(1776)

1. The Logic of Liberalism

2. Adam Smith and the Market Mechanism

THE WEALTH OF NATIONS (Sel. Rdgs) Heilbroner. Chs. 1-4

Feb. 27

SIX WEEK EXAMINATION

(1776-1787)

3. Jefferson, Madison and the "Invention" of America

The Declaration of Independence (Sel. Rdgs) THE FEDERALIST

(1790-1840)

4. Bentham, Utilitarianism and the age of liberal reform

Jeremy Bentham, PRINCIPLES OF LEGISLATION AND MORALS (Sel. Rdgs) Heilbroner, Ch.5 J.S. Mill, ON LIBERTY

March 21-27

SPRING VACATION

March 29

(1790-1870)

THE DISCOVERY OF TIME From Physics to Biology

April 3-14

(1867)

MARX AND MARXISM

1. Karl Marx...dialectical materialism...scientific socialism...political economy and the critique of capitalism

HEILBRONER, Ch.6

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

(1870 -)

2. Further development of Marxism... Lenin, Stalin, Castro, Mao

April 17

TWELVE WEEK EXAMINATION

April 19-May 12

THE LEGACY OF POLITICAL ECONOMIC THOUGHT
AND THE WORLD OF OUR TIMES

(1890 -)

1. American Pragmatism and
Progressivism...John Dewey.
Pragmatism and the
American ethos

John Dewey,
LIBERALISM AND
SOCIAL ACTION

(1936 -)

2. Keynes and Keynesianism...

Heilbroner,
Ch.9

(1980 -)

3. The Contemporary Argument:
Classical vs. Egalitarian
Liberalism

Friedman,
Capitalism and
Freedom" and
Dworkin,
"Neutrality,
Equality and
Liberalism"
(Sel. Rdgs.)