

Committee on Social Thought **AUTUMN 2012** Course Schedule --- 1

20692. Thucydides, Machiavelli, Carl Schmitt: **GIORGINI, Giovanni** 10:30-11:50a F 505 xPLSC 20692 & 30692/
30692. Three Masters of Political Realism T/R CLAS 37812/CLCV 27812

The course is devoted to the origin and development of political realism as it is exemplified in the works of the ancient Grek historian Thucydides, the Renaissance Italian politician and political philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli and the twentieth century German legal philosopher and constitutional theorist Carl Schmitt.

In the course we will first examine Thucydides' notion of history and his view of the relation between political communities, based on fear and a fragile balance of power. We will then study Machiavelli's political communities, based on fear and a fragile balance of power. We will then study Machiavelli's idea that politics is the most serious matter and therefore statesmen as well as political philosophers should base their actions and observations on what is, and not on what ought to be. Finally, we will investigate Schmitt's notion of 'the political' as the relation between friend and foe.

Required readings:

Thucydides, *The History of Peloponnesian War*, trans. R. Warner (New York: Penguin, 2010).

L. Strauss, 'On Thucydides's War of the Peloponnesian and the Athenians' in *The City and Man* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978), chapter 3.

N. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. H.C. Mansfield (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, 2nd edition).

Q. Skinner, *Machiavelli: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001).

C. Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, trans. G. Schwab, expanded edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

H. Meier, *The Lesson of Carl Schmitt: Four Chapters on the Distinction between Political Theology and Political Philosophy*, Expanded edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).

22704. Plato's Republic **THAKKAR, Jonny** 1:30-2:50p xFNDL 22704/CLCV 23512
M/W **Undergrad only course**

A close reading of what is arguably the greatest work of philosophy in the Western tradition. We will probably pay particular attention to the relationship between philosophy and ruling, as well as to Platonic psychology, but this will be a discussion class and so the overall direction will be shaped by the questions that students bring to the text. For that reason participants are strongly encouraged to read the text beforehand; we will be using the C.D.C. Reeve edition.

25702. The Sacred: Philosophy and Art **KIMHI, Irad** 1:30-2:50p F 305 xPHIL 21212/
35702. M/W **Undergrad course**

The seminar will be devoted to conceptions of the sacred. We shall read Rodulf Otto ("The Idea of the Holy"), Marcia Eliade ("The Sacred and the Profane"), and Sigmund Freud ("Totem and Taboo"). We shall review the Kant's discussion of sublime as the origin of Otto's very influential phenomenological conceptions of the Sacred. We shall then proceed to discuss various positions concerning the essential links of art, philosophy and the sacred.

32711. Gita Within Walden **FRIEDRICH, Paul** 9-11:50a F 305 xANTH 34827
R

Henry David Thoreau's Walden is the most distinguished and influential work of American Letters (consider its impact on Mahatma Gandhi and M. L. King Jr.). The *Gita* is "The New Testament of Hinduism" and, often linked with Buddhism, it has percolated through much of the world. Thoreau took the *Gita* to Walden Pond, studied it avidly, and drew on its organization, figures, and values. The rich and complex *Walden/Gita* connection has been studied by a number of scholars, and this course will push the frontiers further through a "heroic reading" of both books. *Walden*, like the *Gita*, begins with its hero in despair and defiance and ends with his coming to some understanding of fundamental problems of good/evil, self/cosmos, duty/passion, reality/illusion, political engagement/philosophical meditation, and sensuous wildness/ascetic devotion.

Committee on Social Thought **AUTUMN 2012** Course Schedule --- 2

34381. Living Poetry **ZAGAJEWSKI, Adam** 1:30-4:20p F 305 xENGL 34381/CMLT34381
T

This class will consist in reading poetry written by contemporary, living authors (of course, in many ways Homer's verses also stand for living poetry!). We'll look at different currents and idiosyncratic choices present in these poetries and discuss dilemmas and problems that poets nowadays are confronted with. We'll be reading Tadeusz Rosewicz, Derek Mahon, Tomas Tranströmer, C.K. Williams, Louise Glück, Tomasz Salamun.

Requirements: active participation in class discussions and a final paper. **This is a grad seminar, open to ug only by consent.**

34401. Freud and Philosophy **LEAR, Jonathan** 1:30-4:20p F 505 xPHIL 25402 & 35402/FNDL 22801
T

PQ: This class is intended for undergraduate majors in Philosophy & Fundamentals, & graduate students in Philosophy & Social Thought. All others require consent of instructor. This course will introduce students to the basic ideas of psychoanalysis -- the unconscious, transference, fantasy, acting out, repetition - in the context of the traditional philosophical questions of what it is to be a human being and what the good life is for humans. Extensive reading from Freud as well as selections from Plato, Aristotle, Sartre and others.

35802. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Emile ou de l'éducation **DESCOMBES, Vincent** 3-4:20p XFREN 24112 & 34112
M/W **Taught in French – ug crse, open to grads**

In his treatise on education, Rousseau has to find a way out of a deep paradox inherent to the Enlightenment psychology: how could he account for the socialization of a human being with the conceptual resources of a solipsistic psychology? The course (given in French) will consist in close readings of selected sections from Rousseau's *Emile ou de l'éducation* (GF Flammarion, 2009).

39125. E Pluribus Unum: Federalism in Theory and Practice **LERNER, Ralph** 9:30-10:20a F 305 xPLSC 39125
M/W

This course will take as its point of departure the following question: What are the concerns, anticipations, and fears to which federalism (as contrasted to a unitary or consolidated frame of government) is supposed to be a proper response? There is a large body of writings – historical documents, philosophical analyses, and secondary scholarly literature – from which we can draw to make a judicious assessment of the costs and benefits of the federal idea in theory and in practice.

40109. Thucydides: Power and Human Nature **GIORGINI, Giovanni** 1:30-4:20p F 505 xPLSC 50108/CLAS 45512
W

Grad seminar, open to ug only by consent

The course will examine the notion of human nature in the Greek historian Thucydides and its relation with the political behavior of citizens, statesmen and political communities. We will explore especially Thucydides' belief in the existence of a 'necessary nature' (*anagkaia physis*) that forces human beings and cities to aggrandize and increase their power leading thereby to inevitable conflict.

In the course we will study the whole of book 1, trying to elicit the refined Thucydidean narrative from the organization of the book: the 'archaeology' (I, 1-18) and its connection with the "Pentekontaetia", the narration of the 50 years between the Persian wars and the Peloponnesian war; the discourses preceding the war and its alleged inevitability.

We will then examine Pericles' Funeral Speech and the narration of the plague in book II as well as the lesson of the civil war in Corcira in book III; a diplomatic incident in Boeotia in book IV, which becomes the occasion for a reflection of power and necessity, and the Melian Dialogue and its philosophical and political implications in book V.

Required readings:

The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War, ed. By R.B. Strassler, trans. R. Crawley, (Chicago: Free Press, 1998).

D. Kagan, *Thucydides: The Reinvention of History* (New York: Penguin, 2010).

C. Orwin, *The Humanity of Thucydides* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997).

L. Strauss, 'On Thucydides's War of the Peloponnesian and the Athenians' in *The City and Man* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978), chapter 3.

Committee on Social Thought **AUTUMN 2012** Course Schedule --- 3

40401. Narratology: Classical Models and New Directions	WELLBERY, David	3-5:50p W	xGRMN 40112/CMLT 50103
<p>This seminar is an introduction to the formal study of narrative. Its purpose is to provide graduate students with a set of conceptual instruments that will be useful to them in a broad range of research contexts. Topics to be considered: 1) the structure of the narrative text; 2) the logic of story construction; 3) questions of perspective and voice; 4) character and identification; 5) narrative genres. After a brief consideration of Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i>, we will move on to fundamental contributions by (among others) Propp, Lévi-Strauss, Barthes, Greimas, Genette, Eco, Lotman, Marin, Ricoeur, and then finish with recent work in analytic philosophy and cognitive science. Readings in theoretical/analytical texts will be combined with practical exercises.</p>			
43312. Philosophy and the Poetics of Presence in Postwar France	PAYNE, Mark & JAMES, Allison	12-2:50p R	JRL 207 xCDIN 43312/CLAS 43312/ CMLT 43312/HIST 66503/FREN 43312
<p>This course will examine the extent to which Martin Heidegger's redescription of Greek poetry and philosophy as an ontological project provided a normative horizon for avant-garde poetic practice in postwar France. We will begin with Heidegger's encounter with René Char in Provence, and their rereading of the pre-Socratic philosophers in a series of seminars between 1966 and 1973. We will look at Heidegger's response to Char's poetic prose in connection with Heidegger's call for thinking instead of philosophy, and at the philosophical commitments of poets who took Char as model, or who develop alternative accounts of the link between poetry and Being. Authors will include Ponge, Celan, Guillevic, Du Bouchet, Royet-Journoud, Albiach, Sobin, Susan Howe, and Daive. Texts may be read in the original or in English translation.</p>			
49800. Reading Course: Non-Social Thought	ARR	ARR	Open only to non-Social Thought Graduate Students: enter section from faculty list on web.
49900. Reading Course: Social Thought	ARR	ARR	Open only to Social Thought students: enter section from faculty list on web.
51301. The Concept of Institution: From Modern Political Philosophical to Social Philosophy	DESCOMBES, Vincent	3-5:50p R	F 505 xPHIL 52201/RLL 41301 Grad only seminar
<p>Modern political philosophy is an inquiry into the legitimacy of political authority (why should I be submitted to a Sovereign?). Social philosophy is an inquiry into the meaning of social action: what does it take for an agent to be acting socially? According to the French School of sociology (Durkheim, Mauss, Lévi-Strauss, Dumont), human beings are social beings insofar as their lives are governed by collective representations and institutions. This view can be presented as a way of dealing with the paradoxes of a purely political view of social life as found in social contract theories of political sovereignty. First, we will assess Durkheim's reading of Jean-Jacques Rousseau <i>Social Contract</i> as having anticipated the sociological understanding of social life by overcoming a purely atomistic view of political association (with the concept of a "general will" and its foundation in the "moral" constitution of the people, i.e., its collective habits and social institutions). Then we will consider contemporary proposals to locate the concept of institution within the framework of a philosophy of action (Anscombe, "On Brute Facts"; Castoriadis, <i>The Imaginary Institution of Society</i>).</p>			
52000. WKSHP: Political Theory	COOPER, Julie	12-1:20p M	P 506 xPLSC 520000
55391. Plato on Beauty and Truth	LEAR, Gabriel	1:30-4:20p T	xPHIL 55391 & 45391
<p>Plato thinks that beautiful speech is truthful and that truthful speech is, in some way, beautiful. Why does he think this and why does he think it important? Readings will include portions of the <i>Republic</i>, <i>Sophist</i>, and <i>Phaedrus</i> so as to understand the beauty of philosophical dialectic by contrast with the false beauties of (some) poetry and rhetoric.</p>			

Committee on Social Thought **AUTUMN 2012** Course Schedule --- 4

55603. Being and Creation

KIMHI, Irad

4:30-7:20p
W

F 305 xPHIL 51114

Grad seminar

The distinction between essence and existence was introduced as part of metaphysical doctrine of creation in Islamic theology. This doctrine cannot be found among the ancient philosophers but became central to the Scholastics. In the seminar we shall read works by Avicenna, Averroes, and Thomas Aquinas. We shall compare Descartes's and Spinoza's receptions of the creation doctrine. I will propose that central concepts of contemporary philosophy such *states of affairs* or *facts* and notions of the mind and of the world that go with them can be traced to the doctrine of creation.

59900. Dissertation Research

Staff

ARR

ARR

Admission to Candidacy or Consent of Instructor.
Enter section from faculty list on web.