

20694. Foundations of Democracy **GIORGINI, Giovanni** 10:30-11:50a F 505 xPLSC 20694 & 30694
30693. T/R

The course examines the historical and theoretical foundations of democracy. The underlying assumption is that political arrangements and institutions are the embodiment of political ideas and theories. The course will investigate the historical emergence of democracy as a form of government based on equality before the law and equal access to all citizens to the deliberative, decisional and control processes. The historical starting point is Solon's reforms in Athens which dramatically broke the hegemony of ancient nobility; we will then study Cleisthenes' reforms and their redefinition of citizenry; in the context of the new political ideal of *isonomia*. We will proceed to examine the theoretical debate of the fifth century BCE, which includes Herodotus (III, 80-82), Thucydides and Protagoras. We will conclude with the criticism leveled at democracy by Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

Required reading include selections from the following works:

Solon, *Poems*, Loeb Edition (Xerox copies available).

Herodotus, *The Histories*, trans. C. Dewald and R. Waterfield (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008); ISBN-10:0199535663).

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. P.J. Rhodes and M. Hammond (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), ISBN-10:0140440399.

Plato, *Protagoras*, trans. C.C.W. Taylor (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009); ISBN-10: 0199555656.

Plato, *The Republic*, trans. C. Rowe (London: Penguin, 2012); ISBN-10: 0141442433.

Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, trans. S. Everson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996); ISBN-10: 0521484006.

20695. A.N. Whitehead as Social Thinker **THOMAS, Michael** 1:30-2:50p F 505 xFNDL 25303
T/R Undergrad Course

This course will attempt to trace a lineage of speculative thought through this history of social theory by examining the influence of Whitehead on three central authors in the field: Talcott Parsons, George Herbert Mead, and Bruno Latour. The first portion of the course will provide a brief introduction to the basic trajectory of speculative theory, the problem of abstraction, and key concepts in Whitehead's metaphysics. This examination will allow us to contrast the common features of his system with the systems of the other authors and make a preliminary attempt at a Whiteheadian social theory. The final sessions of the course will return to Whitehead to discuss the role played by aesthetics and ethics in his work and the role played by value in theory and action to determine what implications it may have for the production of knowledge.

26000. Modern French Poetry in Translation **WARREN, Rosanna** 10:30-11:50a F 305 xENGL 26707/FREN 26113/
T/R CMLT 26006
Undergrads Only

A study of modern French lyric poetry, with special attention to Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Apollinaire, and Char. Texts will be read in English with reference to the French originals. Close reading, and focus on problems in translation. Students with French, of course, should read the poems in the original. Class discussion to be conducted in English; critical essays to be written in English.

31710. Machiavelli: *The Prince* and the *Discourses* **TARCOV, Nathan** 1:30-2:50p F 505 xPLSC 20800 & 32100/
M/W FNDL 29300
Open to ug by consent only.

This course is devoted to reading Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy* and *Prince* supplemented by selections from Livy's history of Rome. Themes include princes, peoples, and elites; republics and principalities; pagan and Christian religion and morality; war and empire; founding and reform; virtue, corruption, and fortune; ancient history and modern experience; reading and writing; and theory and practice.

Committee on Social Thought **AUTUMN 2013** Course Schedule --- 2

34382. Poets in Dark Times **ZAGAJEWSKI, Adam** 1:30-4:20p Wb106 xCMLT 34382/ENGL 24411
M ENGL 34382
Open to ug by consent only

Hannah Arendt published once a collection of remarkable essays under the title *Men in Dark Times*. One of her heroes was Bertolt Brecht, a poet of genius and of a questionable political and philosophical agenda. The class will examine similar theme: how some of the important poet, all of them marked by the aesthetic of Modernism, coped with the darkness of XX century history.

We will read Bertolt Brecht but also Gottfried Benn, another important German poet and very different from Brecht, Wislawa Szymborska, Polish poetess, Vladimir Holan, a Czech poet who had spent his difficult life in Prague and Charles Simic, an American poet born in Belgrade, a writer spanning two continents.

We'll read and discuss these poets; students will be required to participate actively in the conversations and to write a final paper.

34802. Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* – I **LERNER, Ralph** 9-10:20a F 305 xFNDL 24302
M/W

A close reading of the first half of Gibbon's masterwork, together with his Autobiography.

37104. Kings, Culture, and the Three Religions of Medieval Spain **NIRENBERG, David** 1:30-4:20p F 305 xHIST 42203/SPAN 37104/
M HCHR 42203/ARTH 47104
Open to ug by consent

This course will approach the artistic, scientific, literary, political and religious projects of the Christian monarchs Alfonso X "the Wise" (King of Castile from 1252-1284) and James "the Conqueror" (King of Aragon from 1213-1276). It will focus on the inter-religious context of these projects, and ask how their cultural dynamics of were shaped by the interaction of the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities living under their rule.

40110. The Icon of Evil: Tyranny Ancient and Modern **GIORGINI, Giovanni** 1:30-4:20p F 305 xPLSC 50110/CLAS 43413/
W HIST 40302
30400Grad crse, open to ug
w/consent

Tyranny was not just a form of government among others: Greek political thought described the tyrant in all his psychological, ethical, social and political aspects, thereby providing us with an "icon of evil" as well as with a political regime. The image of the tyrant has haunted Western political thought for centuries and has proved to be so resilient to adapt to the different historical circumstances. The course starts from the assumption that there is a hiatus between the historical experience of tyranny and its reception and conceptualization in Greek thought. We will examine its emergence in the VIIth century BCE and its early description in the works of Solon, a contemporary of the actual tyrant Peisistratus. We will then focus on the "canonic" theory of tyranny, which may be found in Plato and Aristotle. After considering the modern divide represented by Machiavelli and Hobbes, we will examine two different modern kinds of tyranny: the "tyranny of the majority" identified by Tocqueville and J.S. Mill and XXth century totalitarianism as described by Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss.

Required readings:

Plato, *The Republic*, trans. C.Rowe (London: Penguin, 2012); ISBN-10: 0141442433.

Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, trans. S. Everson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996); ISBN-10: 0521484006.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, trans. H.C. Mansfield and D. Winthrop (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011); ISBN-10: 0226805360.

H. Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1973); ISBN-10: 0156701537.

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**

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Open only to Social Thought students: enter section from faculty list on web.

55506. The Writings of Johannes Climacus

LEAR, Jonathan

1:30-4:20p
M

SS107 xPHIL 50122
By consent

Søren Kierkegaard created a pseudonymous author Johannes Climacus, who is cited as the author of *Philosophical Crumbs* as well as *The Concluding Unscientific Postscript to Philosophical Crumbs*. This course will begin with a careful reading of *Philosophical Crumbs*. If there is time, we will go on to *The Concluding Unscientific Postscript*. This course is open to graduate students in the Committee on Social Thought and in the Philosophy Department. For all other students, permission of the instructor is required.

52000. WKSHP: Political Theory

Gooding-Williams, Robert

12-1:20p
M

P 506 xPLSC 52000

52001. Yeats and Auden

WARREN, Rosanna

1:30-4:20p
T

F 305 xENGL 36720/CMLT 52001
Grads only

A study of two monumental poets of the English language in the 20th century. The course will integrate close readings of poems with consideration of historical and cultural contexts, and will examine contrasts and continuities between these two different conceptions of modern poetic art.

59900. Dissertation Research

Staff

ARR

ARR

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