

Ohio State University
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 3002
Tradition, Progress, and Utopia
2:20-3:40 TTh Spring 2021

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Overview

This course examines three ways of thinking about social and political change, each of which captures something important about social and political life, and each of which has significant blind spots.

The first focuses on “traditional” values or ways of life that should be protected and preserved. The second envisions a future of steady progress toward an identifiable social or political ideal. The third looks forward to a radical social transformation that allows us to transcend existing institutions and values. We will explore each of these ways of thinking by examining they can help us to think about the relationship between human beings and nature, and about the foundations of human societies.

Readings

All of the required readings have been placed on Carmen.

Course requirements & assessment

- (1) Three exams will be given over the course of the term; during class on **Thursday, February 4** and **Tuesday, March 16**, and from 2:00-3:45 pm on **Monday, April 26** (the canonical final exam time). We will distribute review sheets for each exam near the beginning of each of the three segments of the course, and will hold a review session before each exam. The first exam is worth 30% of the final grade, and the second and third exams are each worth 35% of the final grade.
- (2) This is a discussion-based class. Careful reading preparation and active class participation are expected. Grades will be adjusted up or down by as much as three points on this basis.
- (3) Final grades will be determined using the standard university conversion chart:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-79
B	83-86	D	60-66
B-	80-82	E	0-60
C+	77-79		

Policies and procedures

Academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc>.

Health and safety requirements. All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu>), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times. Non-compliance will result in a warning first, and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

COVID process. The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university’s [request process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let us know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, we may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with us as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If the University moves to online instruction during the course of the semester we will hold class via synchronous Zoom session at our regular meeting time. The Zoom sessions will be recorded for students who have trouble connecting or who want to review. Depending on the timing we may make adjustments to the readings and assignments as necessary.

Mental health services. As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling [614-292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at [614-292-5766](tel:614-292-5766) and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Disabilities. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 West 12th Ave; tel 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu.

Schedule of readings & assignments

I. Introductory

- January 12 Tradition: Conservatism**
Michael Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative,” selections
Friedrich A. Hayek, “Why I Am Not a Conservative,” selections
- January 14 Progress: Enlightenment**
Immanuel Kant, “What Is Enlightenment?”
Michel Foucault, “What is Enlightenment?”
- January 19 Progress: Liberal democracy**
Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?”
Iris Marion Young, “Social Movements and the Politics of Difference,” selection
- January 21 Utopia: Socialism**
Friedrich Engels, “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” selections
Karl R. Popper, “Utopia and Violence”
- January 26 Utopia: Anarchism**
Lucy Parsons, “The Principles of Anarchism”
Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For”
- January 28 Utopia: Non-violence**
Leo Tolstoy, “Letter on Non-Resistance”
Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation,” selections
- February 2 First exam review**
- February 4 First exam**

II. Nature

- February 9 What is nature?**
Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, book 3, chapter 112
Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, chapters 1-2
John Stuart Mill, “Nature,” selections
- February 11 Why growth?**
David Hume, “Of Commerce”
John Maynard Keynes, “Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren”
- February 16 Tradition: Stewardship**
Roger Scruton, “Local Warming”
- February 18 Progress: Can markets save us?**
Matt Zwolinski, “Libertarianism and Pollution”
- February 23 Instructional break**
- February 25 Progress: Can politics save us?**
Naomi Klein, “Capitalism vs. the Climate”
Kevin Drum, “We Need a Massive Climate War Effort – Now”

- March 2** **Progress: Sustainable growth**
 Kate Raworth, *Doughnut Economics*, chapter 2
 Kate Raworth, “The Amsterdam City Doughnut”
- March 4** **Utopia: No growth**
 John Stuart Mill, “Of the Stationary State”
 Tim Jackson, *Prosperity Without Growth*, chapters 8 and 12
- March 9** **Utopia: Localism**
 Murray Bookchin, “What Is Social Ecology?”
- March 11** **Second exam review**
- March 16** **Second exam**
- III. Society**
- March 18** **Tradition: Politics and society**
 Aristotle, *The Politics*, book 1, chapters 1-2
 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Geneva Manuscript*, book 1, chapters 2 and 4
- March 23** **Tradition: Markets and society**
 Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, chapters 4-6
- March 25** **Progress: Civilization (1)**
 Immanuel Kant, “Idea of a Universal History With a Cosmopolitan Purpose”
- March 30** **Progress: Civilization (2)**
 John Stuart Mill, “Civilization”
- April 1** **Instructional break**
- April 6** **Progress: Globalization (1)**
 Deirdre McCloskey, “Learning to Love Globalization”
 Jagdish Bhagwati, “Anti-Globalization: Why?”
- April 8** **Progress: Globalization (2)**
 Joseph Stiglitz, “The Failures of Globalization”
- April 13** **Progress: Anti-colonialism**
 Frantz Fanon, “On Violence,” selections
- April 15** **Utopia: The world state**
 Alexander Wendt, “Why a World State Is Inevitable,” selections
- April 20** **Utopia: Cosmopolitanism**
 Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism”
 Anthony Appiah, “Loyalty to Humanity”
 Judith Butler, “Kantians in Every Culture?”
- April 22** **Third exam review**
- April 26 (M)** **Third exam, 2:00-3:45 pm**