

Ohio State University
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 3002
Tradition, Progress, and Utopia
2:20-3:40 TTh Spring 2024

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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 protected and preserving traditional values and institutions. The second envisions a future of steady progress toward a social or political ideal. The third calls for radical social change that enables us to transcend existing values and institutions. We will explore each of these ways of thinking on its own terms and then consider how they can help us to think about the relationship between human beings and nature and the proper scale of human societies.

Readings

All of the required readings have been posted to Carmen.

Course requirements & assessment

- (1) Three in-class exams will be given on **Tuesday, February 20, Tuesday, March 26, and Wednesday, April 24**. We will distribute an exam review sheet near the beginning of each segment 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.

Grading scale. 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		

Participation grade guidelines

Participation involves active engagement with the course material, listening attentively to classmates, and contributing to class discussion by offering opinions about the readings and responding constructively to the views of others.

- A The student *excels* by contributing significantly to class discussion, engaging respectfully with other students, exhibiting excellent preparation, and attending regularly.
- B The student *does well* by contributing occasionally to class discussion, engaging respectfully with other students, exhibiting good preparation, and attending regularly.
- C The student *does a fair job* by contributing infrequently to class discussion, listening respectfully but seldom engaging other students, exhibiting limited preparation, or attending irregularly.
- D-E The student *does poorly* by contributing rarely to class discussion, disrupting class, exhibiting little or no preparation, or attending infrequently.

Policies & 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>.

Disabilities. The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. 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.

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 is 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. 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 and 24-hour emergency help is also available by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Schedule of readings & exams

I. Models of change

- January 9** **Tradition: Continuity and change**
Michael Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative,” selections
- January 11** **Tradition: Order and authority**
Roger Scruton, “The Conservative Attitude”; “Liberalism versus Conservatism”
- January 16** **Tradition: Virtue and community**
Alasdair MacIntyre, “Politics, Philosophy and the Common Good”
Ronald Dworkin, “Liberalism,” selection
- January 18** **Progress: Spontaneous order**
Friedrich Hayek, “The Principles of a Liberal Social Order”
- January 23** **Progress: Markets and prosperity**
David Hume, “Of Commerce,” selections
John Maynard Keynes, “Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren”
- January 25** **Progress: Intelligence and growth**
John Dewey, “Renascent Liberalism”
- January 30** **Progress: Civic equality and civil disobedience**
Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
Hannah Arendt, “Reflections on Little Rock”
- February 1** **Progress: Pluralism and solidarity**
Iris Marion Young, “Social Movements and the Politics of Difference,” selections
Richard Rorty, “A Cultural Left,” selections
- February 6** **Utopia: Socialism**
Friedrich Engels, “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” selections
Karl R. Popper, “Utopia and Violence”
- February 8** **Utopia: Anarchism**
Lucy Parsons, “The Principles of Anarchism”
Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For”
- February 13** **Utopia: Non-violence**
Leo Tolstoy, “Letter on Non-Resistance”
Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation,” selections
- February 15** **First exam review**
- February 20** **First exam**

II. Sustainability

- February 22 Tradition: Stewardship**
Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, part 2, book 3, chapter 112
Holmes Rolston III, “Value in Nature and the Nature of Value,” selections
- February 27 Tradition: Localism**
Roger Scruton, “Local Warming”
- February 29 Progress: Free markets**
Matt Zwolinski, “Libertarianism and Pollution”
- March 5 Progress: Regulation vs. innovation**
Kate Raworth, *Doughnut Economics*, chapter 2
Kevin Drum, “We Need a Massive Climate War Effort – Now”
- March 7 Utopia: Post-growth**
Tim Jackson, *Prosperity Without Growth*, chapter 9
- March 19 Utopia: Localism**
Murray Bookchin, “What Is Social Ecology?”
- March 21 Second exam review**
- March 26 Second exam**

III. Globalization

- March 28 Tradition: Nationalism**
Yoram Hazony, *The Virtue of Nationalism*, introduction & chapter 14
- April 2 Progress: The world state**
Alexander Wendt, “Why a World State Is Inevitable,” selections
- April 4 Progress: Free trade**
Deirdre McCloskey, “Learning to Love Globalization”
Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapters 1 & 15
- April 9 Progress: Managed trade**
Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents Revisited*, introduction
- April 11 Utopia: Anti-colonialism**
Mohandas K. Gandhi, “Passive Resistance”
Frantz Fanon, “On Violence,” selections
- April 16 Utopia: Cosmopolitanism**
Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism”
Anthony Appiah, “Loyalty to Humanity”
- April 18 Third exam review**
- April 24 (W) Third exam, 2:00-3:45 PM**