

**GE 21A: History of Social Thought  
Fall 2004**

**Professors Rogers Brubaker, Vincent Pecora, Russell Jacoby, and Kirstie McClure**

Faculty

Rogers Brubaker, Dept. of Sociology (Coordinator)  
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3 pm  
Haines 232, email: [brubaker@soc.ucla.edu](mailto:brubaker@soc.ucla.edu)

Russell Jacoby, Dept. of History  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-12:30 pm  
Bunche 9345, email: [rjacoby@history.ucla.edu](mailto:rjacoby@history.ucla.edu)

Kirstie McClure, Dept. of Political Science  
Office hours: TBA  
Bunche 3333, email: [kmmac@ucla.edu](mailto:kmmac@ucla.edu)

Vincent Pecora, Dept. of English  
Office hours: Wednesdays, 10-11 am  
Rolfe 2324, email: [pecora@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:pecora@humnet.ucla.edu)

Teaching Fellows

Danise Kimball, Dept. of Political Science (Sections B and F)  
Office hours: TBA  
Covel 205 B, email: [dkimball@college.ucla.edu](mailto:dkimball@college.ucla.edu)

Willam Nelson, Dept. of History (Sections D and H)  
Office hours: TBA  
Bunche 2155, email: [billyucla@yahoo.com](mailto:billyucla@yahoo.com)

Jennifer Winther, Dept. of Sociology (Sections A and E)  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 11-1 pm  
Haines A54, email: [jwinther@ucla.edu](mailto:jwinther@ucla.edu)

Gabriel Wolfenstein, Dept. of History (Sections C and G)  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 1-3 pm  
Bunche 3389B, email: [gkw@ucla.edu](mailto:gkw@ucla.edu)

Section Times and Locations

Section A	Tuesdays, 9-10:50 am	Public Policy 2278
Section B	Tuesdays, 10-11:50 am	Covel 218
Section C	Tuesdays, 11-12:50 pm	Public Policy 2278
Section D	Tuesdays, 12-1:50 pm	Covel 218

Section E	Tuesdays, 1-2:50 pm	Public Policy 2278
Section F	Tuesdays, 2-3:50 pm	Covel 218
Section G	Tuesdays, 3-4:50 pm	Public Policy 2278
Section H	Tuesdays, 4-5:50pm	Covel 218

## Course Description

The History of Social Thought cluster course examines classics of Western social, political, philosophical, and scientific thought from the 17th century to the present. The syllabus includes works by René Descartes, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Adam Smith, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Friedrich Nietzsche, Max Weber, W. E. B. Du Bois, Sigmund Freud, Virginia Woolf, Michel Foucault, and others.

The authors we will be reading were responding to intellectual, political, and socioeconomic transformations that profoundly shaped -- and continue to shape -- the modern world. These include the scientific revolution, the political revolutions in England, France, and America, and the commercial and industrial revolutions. In coming to terms with the modern world, these thinkers laid the foundations for many contemporary disciplines, including physics, biology, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, and philosophy. We will study the substance and style of their thought, the controversies they evoked, and the interpretative traditions that have become attached to each of them over the ensuing years.

If the works of these thinkers are considered classics, it is because they address questions that are as pertinent and pressing today as they were when the books were written. These include questions about human nature, about the natural world and our place in it, about the source and legitimacy of political authority, about what constitutes a good society, about the meaning and limits of human freedom, about the relation between individual interests and the common good, about the nature and limits of democracy, about the status of women, about the dynamics of capitalist markets, about the workings of the human psyche, and about the limits of reason.

The course invites students to engage these questions -- and to join in a dialogue across the centuries. The teaching staff does not seek to provide authoritative interpretations of the texts. Instead, we have designed the course to bring students into direct and sustained engagement with these classic works. Social thought is not like chemistry or mathematics. There are no definitive interpretations of the texts we read, no single or simple right answers to the questions we explore. The books we read are complex; they are full of inner tensions. We encourage students to grasp these tensions and to come to terms with the complexities.

***Who should take the course.*** We welcome all students, whatever their prospective major, who are interested in exploring fundamental issues in the history of social thought. We particularly welcome students with an interest in social theory, political theory, or

philosophy. However, we discourage students from taking the course whose primary interest is in efficiently satisfying GE requirements. This is a demanding course, and readings are difficult and complex. Students should not take the course unless they are prepared to grapple seriously with this difficult material.

***Course format and requirements.*** During fall and winter quarters, the course meets three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 to 11:50) for lectures and once a week for a two-hour section discussion (all sections are offered on Tuesday). During spring quarter, students choose a seminar that allows them to explore a particular topic in greater depth.

Students are required to complete the reading assignments prior to lectures in which the readings are discussed, and to bring the assigned reading to class to consult particular passages from the text. Section discussions will develop themes introduced in lecture, focus on the specific reading assignments, and work on developing reading strategies and writing skills.

The books we will be reading are challenging and complex works, and students should be prepared to read the assignments more than once.

Two papers are required each quarter, as well as midterm and final exams. Attendance is mandatory at lectures and sections, and will also be required for two evening movies each quarter. Grades will be based on the following assignments: section participation (20%), two papers (15% and 20%), mid-term (15%), and final examination (30%). *Students who miss more than two section meetings will receive no credit for section participation. Students who miss exams or paper deadlines will not receive credit. Exceptions will be made only in the case of authentic, and documented, emergency.*

### **Administrative Questions**

For logistical and administrative questions about enrollment, credit, attendance, and general troubleshooting, please contact Megan Barnhart ([mbarnhar@ucla.edu](mailto:mbarnhar@ucla.edu))

### **Required Texts**

The texts listed below are available at the ASUCLA Textbook Store, on the first floor of Ackerman Union. Required readings that are not included in the texts will be made available on the course website.

Because reference will be made to specific passages and specific pages, it is important that you purchase the *exact* editions of the texts indicated below.

Stillman Drake (translator), **Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo**  
Anchor Books, ISBN 0385092393 (\$11.95)

Descartes, **Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy**  
(edited by Donald Cress)  
Hackett Publishing Company, ISBN 0872204200 (\$6.95)

Hobbes, **The Leviathan: Authoritative Text, Backgrounds, Interpretations**  
(edited by Richard E. Flathman and David Johnston)  
W. W. Norton & Company, ISBN 0393967980 (\$11.00)

Locke, **Second Treatise of Government** (edited by C.B. Macpherson)  
Hackett Publishing Company, ISBN 0915144867 (\$4.95)

Smith, **The Wealth of Nations** (introduction by Alan B. Krueger)  
Bantam Books, ISBN 0553585975 (\$7.95)

Mill, **The Basic Writings of John Stuart Mill: On Liberty, the Subjection of Women and Utilitarianism**  
Modern Library Classics, ISBN 0375759182 (\$9.95)

Rousseau, **Social Contract and the Discourses**  
Everyman's Library, ISBN 0679423028 (\$20.00)

Paine, **Common Sense/Rights of Man** (edited by J. Fruchtman, intro by Sidney Hook)  
Signet Classic, ISBN 0451528891 (\$5.95)

### **Class Website**

The class website (<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/classes/cluster21>) includes the following:

- A link to the syllabus, and to specific reading assignments in cases where the syllabus indicates that these are TBA.
- A link to supplementary assigned readings that are not included in the required books. These should be downloaded and printed from the web site.
- A link to reading questions on the assigned works. These should be printed out and consulted as you read. You should also bring these to sections.
- A link to lecture slides (for lectures by Brubaker, Jacoby, and Pecora). These will be posted in advance and should be printed out and brought to lecture.
- Up-to-date information about class announcements, readings, events, and office hours.
- Selected background information on the texts, their authors, and the historical

contexts in which they lived and wrote.

- Discussion board for the class as a whole. Discussion boards for your individual sections are located on the section websites, available through your MyUCLA webpage. We encourage you to use the discussion boards as a place to discuss the readings; the faculty and Teaching Fellows will monitor and participate in the discussions.

## Outline of Lectures and Important Dates

Events outside the regular class time are in *boldfaced italic*. The movie screenings are required, but there will be alternative ways for you to see the movies if you cannot attend at the scheduled times. The opening dinner and the special dinners before the movies are not required, but we do hope you'll come!

Friday, October 1	Introduction
Monday, October 4	Thematic introduction on modernity (RB)
Wednesday, October 6	Scientific Revolution (RB) <b><i>Pizza Party Opening Dinner, DeNeve Plaza Room, 5:30-7:30 pm</i></b>
Friday, October 8	Scientific Revolution (RB)
Monday, October 11	Descartes, Discourse on Method (RB)
Wednesday, October 13	Descartes, Discourse on Method (RB) <b><i>Reading Workshop, DeNeve Private Dining Room, 6-7:30 pm</i></b>
Friday, October 15	Hobbes, Leviathan (KM) <b>First paper assignment distributed</b>
Monday, October 18	Hobbes, Leviathan (KM) <b><i>Writing Workshop, DeNeve Private Dining Room, 6-7:30 pm</i></b>
Wednesday, October 20	Hobbes, Leviathan (KM)
Friday, October 22	Locke, Second Treatise (KM)
Monday, October 25	Locke, Second Treatise (KM)
Wednesday, October 27	Locke, Second Treatise (KM)
Friday, October 29	Smith, Moral Sentiments (RB) <b>First paper due at beginning of lecture</b>
Monday, November 1	Smith, Moral Sentiments (RB)
Wednesday, November 3	Smith, Wealth of Nations (RB)
Friday, November 5	Smith, Wealth of Nations (RB)
Monday, November 8	<b>Midterm, in class</b>
Tuesday, November 9	Section meetings to be held in Powell Library
Wednesday, November 10	Rousseau, Second Discourse (KM) <b><i>Screening of "The Wild Child," Northwest Auditorium, 7 pm (optional dinner in DeNeve Private Dining Room before the movie)</i></b>

Friday, November 12	Rousseau, Second Discourse (KM)
Monday, November 15	Rousseau, Social Contract (KM) <b>Second paper assignment distributed</b>
Wednesday, November 17	Rousseau, Social Contract (KM)
Friday, November 19	French Revolution (RJ)
Monday, November 22	French Revolution and Paine (RJ)
Monday, November 22	<b>Screening of "Danton," DeNeve Auditorium, 7 pm (optional dinner in DeNeve Private Dining Room before the movie)</b>
	<b>Second paper assignment distributed</b>
Wednesday, November 24	Conservative Thought (KM)
Friday, November 26	<b>No class (Thanksgiving Break)</b>
Monday, November 29	German Romanticism (VP) <b>Second paper due at beginning of lecture</b>
Wednesday, December 1	Bentham's Utilitarianism (RB)
Friday, December 3	Mill, Utilitarianism (RB)
Monday, December 6	Mill, On Liberty (KM)
Wednesday, December 8	Mill, On Liberty, Subjection of Women (KM)
Friday, December 10	Mill, Subjection of Women (KM)
Tuesday, December 14	<b>Final exam, 8-11 am</b>

### Reading assignments and lecture topics

Readings are to be completed by the date that **precedes** the specified readings. All readings are from the texts available at the ASUCLA bookstore, **except** for those marked with an asterisk, which will be available on the course website. For readings from the bookstore's texts, you must purchase the exact edition specified above in the list of required books.

<b>Friday, October 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>Monday, October 4</b>	<b>What's "modern" about the modern world?</b>

### To read before section meetings on Tuesday, October 5

Steven Shapin, *The Scientific Revolution\**, Chapter One (pp. 15-64).

Galileo, readings from *Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo*

(1) excerpts from "The Starry Messenger" (1610) : p. 27 through the top of p. 30; middle of p. 31 to the middle of p. 33; last paragraph on p. 45 to middle of p. 53; last paragraph on p. 56 through last full paragraph on p. 57

(2) excerpts from "Letters on Sunspots" (1613): middle of p. 123 through end of p. 124; last paragraph on p. 140 through top of p. 143.

(3) excerpts from "Letters to the Grand Duchess Christina" (1615) : first full paragraph on p. 181 through the last complete sentence on p. 190; last paragraph of p. 195 through last sentence on bottom of 197.

**Wednesday, October 6**                      **The Scientific Revolution**

**Friday, October 8**                         **The Scientific Revolution**

**Monday, October 11**                      **Descartes, *Discourse on Method***

Descartes, "Discourse on Method" in *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, pp. 1-44.

**Wednesday, October 13**                      **Descartes, *Discourse on Method***

**Friday, October 15**                         **Hobbes, *Leviathan***

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I

Hobbes' Introduction

Chapter 1, Of Sense.

Chapter 2. Of Imagination.

Chapter 3, Of the Consequence or Train of Imaginations.

Chapter 4, Of Speech

Chapter 5, Of Reason, and Science

Chapter 6, Of the beginning of Voluntary Motions commonly called the Passions:

Chapter 10, Of Power, Worth, Dignity, Honour, and Worthiness

Chapter 11, Of the Difference of Manners

Chapter 13, Of the Natural Condition of Mankind.

**Monday, October 18**                         **Hobbes, *Leviathan***

*Leviathan*, Part I

Chapter 14, Of the First and Second Natural Laws

Chapter 15, Of Other Laws of Nature

Chapter 16, Of Persons, Natural and Artificial

*Leviathan*, Part II

Chapter 17, Of the Causes, Generation and Definition of a Commonwealth.

Chapter 18, Of the Rights of Sovereigns by Institution

Chapter 19, Of the Several Kinds of Commonwealth by Institution

Chapter 21, Of the Liberty of Subjects

Chapter 29, Of Those Things that Weaken or tend to the Dissolution of a Commonwealth.

**Wednesday, October 20**                         **Hobbes, *Leviathan***

**Friday, October 22**

**Locke, *Second Treatise of Government***

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*:

Chapter 2, Of the State of Nature

Chapter 3, Of the State of War

Chapter 4, Of Slavery

Chapter 5, Of Property

Chapter 7, Of Political or Civil Society

Chapter 8, Of the Beginning of Political Societies

Chapter 9, Of the Ends of Political Society and Government.

**Monday, October 25**

**Locke, *Second Treatise of Government***

*Second Treatise of Government*

Chapter 10, Of the Forms of a Commonwealth

Chapter 11, Of the Extent of the Legislative Power.

Chapter 12, Of Legislative, Executive, and Federative Power.

Chapter 13, Of the Subordination of the Powers of the Commonwealth: § 149.

Chapter 15, Of Paternal, Political and Despotical Power.

Chapter 18, Of Tyranny

Chapter 19, Of the Dissolution of Government

**Wednesday, October 27**

**Locke, *Second Treatise of Government***

**Friday, October 29**

**Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments***

Adam Smith, excerpts from *Theory of the Moral Sentiments*\*

**Monday, November 1**

**Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments***

Tuesday, November 2

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (these selections to be read before section meeting on Tuesday; note that this text **will** be covered on the midterm)

Introduction: pp. 1-first ¶ break on 3

The Division of Labor

pp. 9 through middle of 30 (you may skip p. 13)

Money, Value, Price

pp. 33 to ¶ break on 34

pp. 43 to ¶ break on 47

pp. 67 through second ¶ on 71

pp. 78-88

The “System of Natural Liberty”



pp. 163 (starting at Part II) to 164 (through last full ¶)  
 pp. 168 (starting at first full ¶) through end of 178  
 pp. 568 to first ¶ break on 576  
 pp. 591 (starting at first full ¶) through 593  
 pp. 873 (starting at first full ¶) through 875  
 pp. 986 (starting at second full ¶) through 994  
 Capital Stock; Productive and Unproductive Labor  
 pp. 349 to second ¶ break on 351  
 pp. 353-362  
 pp. 422 to first ¶ break on 433  
 pp. 435 (last ¶ break) to first ¶ break on 442

**Wednesday, November 3**                      **Smith, *Wealth of Nations***

**Friday, November 5**                         **Smith, *Wealth of Nations***

**Monday, November 8**                        **Midterm Exam**

**Tuesday, November 9**

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Second Discourse* (a part of this work will be assigned to be read by section meeting on November 9; specific assignment TBA)

**Wednesday, November 10**                 **Rousseau, *Second Discourse***

**Friday, November 12**                        **Rousseau, *Second Discourse***

specific assignment TBA

**Monday, November 15**                       **Rousseau, *Social Contract***

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*: specific assignment TBA

**Wednesday, November 17**                 **Rousseau, *Social Contract***

**Friday, November 19**                        **French Revolution**

William Doyle, *The French Revolution*, Chapter 3\*

**Monday, November 22**                       **French Revolution**

Thomas Paine, selections from *The Rights of Man*, Signet Classics edition of *Common Sense/Rights of Man*, pp. 135-170, 266-294

**Wednesday, November 24**                 **Conservative Thought: Burke and Maistre**

