**Classics in Social and Political Thought**

**Fall 2012, Section 3**

**Tuesday and Thursday, 9-10:20**

**Harper Memorial, Room 135**

James Chappel james.chappel@gmail.com Gates-Blake 412 Office Hours: Thursday, 2-4

Welcome back! This semester will be quite different from the last one. In the fall, we explored ancient, and sometimes mystifying, texts. They spoke to us in language that was quite foreign. In a sense, this is what makes them so valuable: Plato, Aristotle, and the rest were writing in a time and place radically different from our own; their concerns, likewise, were very different from ours. This semester, we will be changing gears. In the early modern period, the nation-state and its empires took over from the city-state. The divine monarchies inspired by Aquinas started to fall victim to revolution from below. The agricultural economies of the past gave way to industry; the old understanding of the universe gave way to modern science. In this new world—the world that we very much share—how are we to be moral and just? In the absence of philosopher kings, or divine ones, or naturally virtuous citizens, how are we to think about political authority and legitimacy? These questions are ours, and they began to be asked in the early modern texts we will confront this quarter.

**Details and Course Requirements**

*Attendance:* Given the nature of the course, attendance is mandatory, and all absences will be noted. If you have a reason to be absent, let me know as far in advance as possible. One absence will not torpedo your grade, but two or more absences without excuses will definitely hurt you.

*Discussion:* This is a seminar, organized around discussion. The most important course requirement is that you do the reading and that you come to class prepared to discuss it. Classics is a group effort, and the experiment will only succeed if everyone participates. This will mean different things to different people, and I hope that you will use the opportunity to grow as a thinker and a talker. Socrates, the presiding spirit of the course, did not write a word: he philosophized through talking. Our mission in this course is to follow Socrates’ example, learning to converse as a seminar. A seminar is different from a lecture or a paper: we will learn to bounce our ideas off one another and build confidence to speak before our ideas are fully-formed. I understand that some people are more comfortable speaking in class than others. It is important to realize, though, that speaking philosophically is not a skill that one either has or doesn’t have: it is a skill that requires work and practice. You are not permitted, that is, to rest on your laurels during class because you imagine yourself to be someone who does not speak.

*Online component:* After class each day, I will post a set of questions for the next day’s readings. I *highly* recommend that you take a look at these before you start reading. They will give you clues about which parts of the text are important, or at least which parts I think are important. Don’t let these questions dominate your reading: maybe you’ll pick up on different themes or passages than me (this is great, and bring them up in class!). They are, though, a good starting-place, especially if you’re feeling lost. Two times over the semester, you will be responsible for posting a well-developed response to one of my questions. We will assign the dates in class. This post should around 250-300 words. In addition, you should pose two questions of your own: what did *you* think was interesting, and what would *you* like to analyze in class? These are due at 6 P.M. the day before class. While they will not be graded individually, I will seriously consider them as a portion of your participation grade, and the same rules on plagiarism apply as in a paper.

*Papers and Exams:* This is a writing-intensive course. I will be assigning two papers, each of which will be 5-7 pages, written in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Each essay will be titled and properly referenced. There will be a writing workshop for the first paper; we’ll go over the details later. All papers should be e-mailed to me in .doc or .docx format.

*Extensions and Late Papers*: I am not especially lenient with extensions: you know about these papers far in advance and if you fail to make time in your schedule to write them, it is your own fault. That said, if there are any extenuating circumstances—personal or family illness, for instance—please let me know, and I will be as accommodating as I can. If papers are handed in late, I will deduct one grade per day (i.e. from an A- to a B+). Papers that are e-mailed any time after the beginning of class will be counted late.

*Office Hours:* Please come and see me, if just to chat for a few minutes! The course will work best if we get to know each other: you don’t need to wait until papers are due to stop by. That said, if you are having any issues with the course or would like help on your papers, stop by then, too.

*Computers:* You are highly discouraged from using laptop computers; if you wish to use them, turn off the wireless function. You are not permitted to browse the internet during class. If your computer use is distracting to yourself or others, I will consider you absent on the day in question (and your grade will suffer accordingly).

*Plagiarism*: I take plagiarism extremely seriously. It is far better to turn in a mediocre paper than to plagiarize: the former will hurt your grade but, if caught, the latter will jeopardize your academic career. At the very least, you will fail the paper; more likely, you will fail the course as a whole and have your case turned over to university administration. There is little need to use secondary sources in this course, but if you choose to use them, they must be properly cited.

What is plagiarism? If you have any questions about this—that is, if you are not sure whether or not a certain act constitutes plagiarism—ask me before turning in your paper. Basically, do not pass off other’s ideas or words as your own: if you got a cool idea from Plato from a website, or the footnotes that come with our version, or from a conversation with your father, you have to cite it. There is no shame in this: we all get our ideas from somewhere (my dissertation had over one thousand footnotes). Here is an excerpt of the definition provided by the American Historical Association: “Plagiarism includes more subtle and perhaps more pernicious abuses than simply expropriating the exact wording of another author without attribution. Plagiarism also includes the limited borrowing, without attribution, of another person's distinctive and significant research findings, hypotheses, theories, rhetorical strategies, or interpretations, or an extended borrowing even with attribution.”

**Assessment**

30%: Class Participation, Attendance, Chalk postings

10%: Writing Workshop Assignment

30%: Paper 1

30%: Paper 2

**Required Texts** (available at the Seminary Cooperative Bookstore):

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Curley (Hackett)

Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, ed. Laslett (Cambridge)

Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings,* ed. Gourevitch (Cambridge)

Rousseau, *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings,* ed. Gourevitch (Cambridge)

You are required to use these editions of these texts, in order to facilitate common discussion.

Tues, 8 Jan: Introductory Session: *Leviathan*, Introduction

Thurs, 10 Jan: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 1, 2, 4 (paras 1-13), 6 (paras 1-7), 8

Tues, 15 Jan: *Leviathan,* 13, 14, 15 (paras 1-15), 17, 19 (paras 1-8, 14-23)

Thurs, 17 Jan: *Leviathan* 18, 30 (paras 1-9, 12-24, 27), 46 (32, 35-6), 31 (41)

Tues, 22 Jan: *Leviathan* 21, 29, Review and Conclusion (paras 1-9)

Thurs, 24 Jan: *Leviathan* 12, 41 (paras 3-5), 42 (paras 4-11), 43 (paras 1-3), 47

<paper 1 topics handed out>

Tues, 29 Jan: Writing Workshop

Thurs, 31 Jan: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs 1-5

Tues, 5 Feb: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs 7-15

Thurs, 7 Feb: NO CLASS TODAY. **Paper 1 due via e-mail, at 5 P.M**.

Tues, 12 Feb: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs 16-19

Thurs, 14 Feb: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Dedicatory Epistle, Preface, Exordium, Part I

Tues, 19 Feb: *Second Discourse,* Part II, Notes 9 and 15

Thurs, 21 Feb: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book I

<paper 2 topics handed out>

Tues, 26 Feb: *Social Contract*, Book II

Thurs, 28 Feb: *Social Contract*, Book III

Tues, 5 March: *Social Contract*, Book IV

**Paper 2 due via e-mail, at 5 P.M.**

Thurs, 7 March: Robespierre, “On the Moral and Political Principles of Domestic Policy” [Chalk]

Tues, 12 March: Madison, Federalist Paper 10 [Chalk]

**Chalk Posting Schedule**

15 Jan: Ji Su, Konrad, Bill

17 Jan: Brendan, Daniel, Helen

22 Jan: Tshepo, Laeticia

24 Jan: Elena, Jorge

31 Jan: Noah, Simon

5 Feb: Matthew, Sean

12 Feb: Jack, Sasha

14 Feb: Bill, Helen

19 Feb: Ji Su, Konrad

21 Feb: Brendan, Daniel

26 Feb: Tshepo, Laeticia

28 Feb: Elena, Jorge

5 March: Noah, Simon

7 March: Sean, Matthew

12 March: Jack, Sasha