

University of Washington, Tacoma
Autumn 2015

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TCore 103: Foundations of political economy and social theory

M,W,F 11:00am - 12:20pm in Tioga Library Building (TLB) 115

In this course, we survey a variety of foundational texts in political economy and social theory, including works by John Locke, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Max Weber, and others. We will take up questions concerning the nature of power and political legitimacy, the relation between states and markets, and various theories of self and society. Our authors grapple with the problem of developing a conceptual and critical vocabulary for understanding the intersection of political, social and economic experience. From out of that matrix emerges various conceptions of freedom, justice, individual and collective identity, social order and its disintegration.

Required Texts

The following texts are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- *John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett).
- *Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*. www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html
- * *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton)
- *W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*.
www.jpanafrican.com/ebooks/3.4eBookSoulofBlackFolk.pdf
- *G.H. Mead, *Mind, Self, Society*.
https://www.brocku.ca/MeadProject/Mead/pubs2/mindself/Mead_1934_toc.html

Other readings from the reading schedule (see below) will be available for download from Canvas. Please print out all required readings.

Requirements

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

- Participation (20%)
- Exam #1 (15%)
- Exam #2 (25%)
- Essay (5-7 pages) (40%)

Expectations

This class will consist of lecture and discussion. Students must prepare themselves to discuss the day's reading. It is recommended that students take careful and detailed notes on each reading *prior* to each class meeting. Bring your copy of the assigned reading to class, and arrive ready to discuss the texts. A daily reading journal may help in this regard. Needless to say, attendance is required. Students are expected to read carefully, generously, and critically, and to be full participants in class discussion.

Graded assignments

You will complete three graded assignments: two exams and one essay. The first exam will cover John Locke; the second, Smith, Marx and Weber. The essay assignment will focus your attention on the remaining authors.

Policies

Computers and other electronic devices are not allowed in class. Please turn off your phones, etc., and stow them where they will not be a distraction. Does this mean no "texting" in class? Yes. Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty and will result in disciplinary measures.

Disability Support Services (DSS)

The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS) functions as the focal point for coordination of services for students with disabilities. In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any enrolled student at UW Tacoma who has an appropriately documented physical, emotional, or mental disability that "substantially limits one or more major life activities [including walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working]," is eligible for services from DSS. If you are wondering if you may be eligible for accommodations on our campus, please visit

http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm/

Teaching and Learning Center

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) offers free academic support for students at all levels on the practices of writing. More information about the writing center is available at:

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/teaching-learning-center/teaching-learning-center>

Inclement Weather, or Other Class Cancellations

In general, please assume that our class will meet as scheduled. If the weather turns nasty, check the UWT home page for school closure or delayed opening. If I know I cannot make it to campus, I will send an e-mail to the class. Please, don't brave the roads if you believe that you cannot safely make it to campus due to the weather in your area.

Reading Schedule

N.B. This schedule is *tentative* insofar as the pace of readings depends *entirely* on the pace of our discussions. If necessary, we will fearlessly throw out some of the scheduled readings.

	sep	
W	30	No reading assigned.
	oct	
F	2	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 1 and 2.
M	5	Locke, chaps. 3-5
W	7	Locke, chaps. 6-9
F	9	Locke, chaps. 10-19
M	12	Locke, cont.
W	14	Exam #1
F	16	Adam Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> , Book 1, chap. 1
M	19	Smith, Book 1, chaps. 2 & 3
W	21	Smith, Book 1, chap. 4, and Book 3, chap 1.
F	22	Karl Marx, "Estranged Labor," in <i>Marx-Engels Reader</i> , pp. 70-81.
M	26	Marx, "Private Property and Communism," and "The Meaning of Human Requirements," pp. 81-101.
W	28	Marx, "The Power of Money in Bourgeois Society," pp. 101-105, and "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 143-145.
F	30	Marx & Engels, "The Manifesto of the Communist Party," pp. 473-500.
	nov	
M	2	Marx, <i>Capital</i> , pp. 302-336
W	4	Max Weber, <i>Selections from Economy & Society</i> (class, status, party)
F	6	Weber, selections from <i>Economy & Society</i> (types of legitimate domination)
M	9	Weber, cont.
W	11	No class (Veterans Day)
F	13	Exam #2
M	16	W.E.B. Du Bois, <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> , chaps. 1,2,3
W	18	Du Bois, chaps. 5,6,9,11,13
F	20	G.H. Mead, <i>Mind, Self & Society</i> , chaps. 18-22 [Part 3, Self, 1-5]

M	23	Mead, chaps. 23-29, 35, 36, 41 [Part 3, Self, 6-12; Part 4, Society, 6, 7, 12]
W	25	Mead, cont.
F	27	No class (Thanksgiving)
M	30	Nancy Fraser, "From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Postsocialist' Age."
	dec	
W	2	Nancy Fraser, "After the Family Wage: A Postindustrial Thought Experiment."
F	4	Peter Singer, "All Animals are Equal."
M	7	To be determined
W	9	To be determined
F	11	Final discussion

Essay due to my office in lieu of a final exam.