

# PST

## Political and Social Thought Third Year Core Seminar

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### PST 4850—Fall Term, 2018

Tuesdays, 3:30—6:00 pm, Bryan Hall 235

Professor Michael Joseph Smith ([mjsmith@virginia.edu](mailto:mjsmith@virginia.edu))

**MJS Office Hours:** Wednesdays 2-5 pm; Thursdays, 1-4 pm; also by appointment; in Gibson S-396.

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Except when noted, written responses of 500-800 words are due each week before class (please email essays to [pst3rdyear@gmail.com](mailto:pst3rdyear@gmail.com) by *Mondays at 7:00 pm.*) Occasionally “double responses” of 1600-2000 words on two weeks of reading will be assigned. Late essays will be penalized: meet your deadlines. Please consult the *PST Essay Submission Protocol*, the *PST Essay Style Sheet*, and the documents available on the course *Collab* website for vital matters of format and wholesome advice on substance.

### Outline of Readings and Classes

August 28: Introduction to Class and Themes

Brief assignment (no essay, available on Collab website): L. Kolakowski, “How to be a Conservative-Liberal-Socialist: A Credo”;

Hugh Stretton, “Why Histories Happen,” from *The Political Sciences*.

#### I. The Individual confronts the State:

September 4: Plato, *The Apology and the Crito*.

September 11: Sophocles, *Antigone* (Oxford World Classics, ed. Edith Hall); and Kamila Shamsie, *Home Fire*.

September 18: Nadine Gordimer, *Burger’s Daughter*.

#### II. Visions of Politics, Economics, and Society

September 25: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Modern Library, 1994 edition):

Introduction and Plan of the Work, pp. *lix-lxii*.

Book I, Chapters I-IX, pp. 1-110; from chapters X and XI, pp. 114-126; 135-156; pp. 197-199; 284-288.

Book II, chapters I, III, pp. 299-310; 360-378.

Book III, chapters, I, III, IV: pp. 407-412; 426-453.

Book IV, from chapters I, II, VIII, IX: pp. 455-462; 475-488; 498-502; 715-735.

Book V, from chapter I: pp. 779-788; 819-827; 838-878.

October 2: Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*.

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, excerpts to be discussed.

*This class will be a structured debate between ‘partisans’ of Burke and Paine using only their arguments.*

*(October 9—no class: Fall Break—read Marx!)*

October 16: Robert C. Tucker, editor, *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Second edition),

“On the Jewish Question,” and “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*,” pp. 16-66.

“Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” pp. 70-106.

*The German Ideology*, Part I, pp. 146-203.

October 23: *Marx-Engels Reader* (continued):

“Wage, Labour, and Capital” pp. 203-218.

From *Capital*, prefaces and chapter one of Volume I: pp. 294-329.

“Manifesto of the Communist Party,” pp. 469-501.

“The ‘Amsterdam Speech,’” pp. 522-25.

“‘Debate’ with Bakunin,” pp. 542-49.

“On British Rule in India,” pp. 653-665.

*Double Response due this week; I will offer some possible topics.*

### III. Liberal Dreams, Hopes .....

October 30: H.S Reiss, ed., *Kant’s Political Writings*, editor’s introduction, pp. 41-60; 61-64; 87-93; 164-191; 221-250.

November 6: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, and *On the Subjection of Women*, entire.

November 13: Isaiah Berlin, *The Power of Ideas* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), 1-68; 111-126, 134-43; 195-205; 214-25.

### IV. .... Fears, and Nightmares

*Thanksgiving break: no class on November 21.*

November 27: George Orwell, *1984*.

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*.

December 4: Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let me Go*.

Sigmund Freud, “Reflections on War and Death, (1915); *Civilization and its Discontents*, entire.

Judith Shklar, *Political Thought and Political Thinkers*, chapters 1, 2, 14,18, 20.

**Winter Break Assignment:** Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace* (the 2008 Pevear translation; or the Penguin Classics/Rosemary Edmonds (not Anthony Briggs) translation.