

SOSC 11400: Power, Identity, Resistance – I
Autumn 2022

Section 18, 5555 S. Ellis, Room 106
MW 1:30–2:50 p.m.

Ryan Allen
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M 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and by appointment

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Description

This seminar is the first quarter of a three-quarter sequence in the social sciences. Power, Identity, Resistance introduces students to the history of social and political thought in the modern era. This autumn, we examine the evolution of liberal political theory in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We consider how state power was legitimized by common consent, how state power should be limited, and how ideas of what was natural anchored principles of freedom, equality, and property (or the lack thereof). We will read Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Edmund Burke—four thinkers concerned with power and political systems. This seminar will develop your ability to think critically and communicate clearly.

Readings

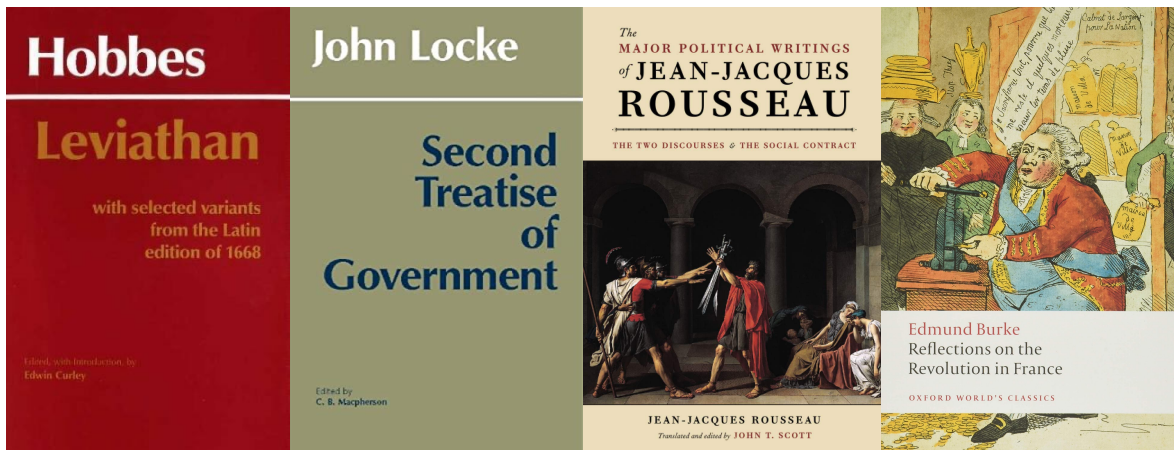
Four books are required for the course. They are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore on the corner of 58th and Woodlawn.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett, 1994)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett, 1980)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (Chicago, 2012)

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Oxford, 2009)



Requirements

Participation: 30% of course grade

Informed participation is required in this discussion-intensive seminar. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments before class, attend all class meetings, and actively participate in class discussions. You need to bring a copy of the book and any notes you have made to class. Your overall grade will be reduced for more than two unexcused absences. As a courtesy to your fellow students and to keep yourself focused on class discussions, please turn off electronic equipment (phones, laptops, and so on) and keep them out of sight during class meetings.

As part of your class participation, you will lead class discussion for ten minutes. Once this quarter you will be responsible for introducing a specific topic in the reading assignment that you find compelling or have thoughts about, and preparing questions that will lead discussion. You need to e-mail me what topics or passages you have decided to cover by 5 p.m. on the day before you lead discussion. If you want more guidance, please come to my office hours or send me your topic and questions a bit earlier.

Reflections: 40% of course grade

You will write six short reflections this quarter. These reflections are designed to evaluate the quality of your engagement with course readings and discussions. They are not meant to be comprehensive summaries but focused meditations on topics you find particularly important or germane. The most successful reflections examine specific passages and then explain how those passages reveal something important about the work as a whole. You must end your reflection with a question that emerges out of your analysis. Each reflection should be approximately 500 words, double spaced, Times New Roman 12-point type with 1-inch margins on all sides. Avoid title pages, footnotes and bibliographies, but have a proper title and parenthetically cite page numbers after quoted passages. You must attend class in order to hand in a reflection.

Final Paper: 30% of course grade

You will write a final paper comparing Jean-Jacques Rousseau's vision of a political society in which citizens give laws to themselves and recognize one another as equals with Edmund Burke's critique of such a radical reorganization of society. Detailed instructions will be distributed during the quarter. You will be required to meet with me about paper outlines, drafts, and revisions. A draft of the paper is due on Monday, November 14. The final paper is due on Wednesday, December 7.

Academic Integrity

As with all your courses at the University of Chicago, you are required to adhere to the University's policy on academic integrity. This policy is described in detail at: <https://college.uchicago.edu/student-services/academic-integrity-student-conduct>

Schedule

This schedule may change. Students will be notified of changes in class. Assignments are marked with an asterisk.

Introduction Modern Social and Political Thought

W September 28 **The Sacred Name of “Nature”**
Syllabus

Part One Thomas Hobbes

M October 3 **Natural Philosophy**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, chs. 1–9, pp. 3–50

W October 5 **The State of Nature**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, chs. 10–15, pp. 50–100
* Reflection 1 due

M October 10 **From Natural Laws to the Social Contract**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, chs. 17–21, pp. 106–145

W October 12 **The Name and Nature of Leviathan**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, chs. 26–31, pp. 172–244
* Reflection 2 due

Part Two John Locke

M October 17 **Comparing Hobbes and Locke**
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Preface, chs. 1–4, pp. 5–18

W October 19 **Locke, Theorist of Capitalist Appropriation**
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 5, pp. 18–30
* Reflection 3 due

M October 24 **Locke, the Liberal Paragon**
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 6–11, pp. 30–75

W October 26 **Locke and Empire**
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 12–19, pp. 75–124
* Reflection 4 due

Part Three Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- M October 31 **Rousseau's Supposed Primitivism**
Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Letter to Geneva,
Preface, Part I, pp. 37–90
- W November 2 ***Amour-propre* and the Origins of Inequality**
Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Part II, pp. 91–117
* Reflection 5 due
- M November 7 **A Matter of Wills, General and Particular**
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books I and II, pp. 163–203
- W November 9 **Reconciling Order and Freedom**
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Books III and IV, pp. 205–272
- M November 14 **Open Session**
* Draft of Final Paper due

Part Four Edmund Burke

- W November 16 ***Reflections*, a Manifesto of Modern Conservatism?**
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 3–64
- November 21–25 No Class Meeting: Thanksgiving Break
- M November 28 **Burke and Time**
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 64–128
* Reflection 6 due
- W November 30 **Masculine Sentimentality**
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 156–174, 245–250
- W December 7 * Final Paper: Your final paper is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on
Wednesday, December 7. Please e-mail your paper to me as an
attached Microsoft Word document at rlallen@uchicago.edu