


# CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION


Spring 2009  
TR 4:10-6:00, Hamilton Hall 309

Professor Patrick Singy  
ps2403@columbia.edu  
Heyman Center, H 2-4  
Office hours: 2-3 MW, or by appointment

## BOOKS


 It is imperative that you use only the editions specified:

Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)  
Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (The Modern Library)  
Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge UP)  
Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Dover)  
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (Penguin Classics)  
Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford)  
Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (Hackett)  
Marx and Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader, Second edition* (Norton)  
Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (Broadview)  
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Vintage)  
W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Dover)  
Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (W. W. Norton & Company)  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (Vintage)  
Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago)  
Foucault, *The Order of Things* (Vintage)

 All the readings (except those only available online) have been ordered at Labyrinth Books and are on reserve at Butler as well. You need to buy the standard set of texts for CC, plus Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, and Foucault's *The Order of Things*.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) **Attendance.** According to College policy, absence is only excused for religious holidays, sickness, and family emergencies. Absence for the last two reasons must be explained by a note from a Dean or a doctor. *More than two unexcused absences will result in your final grade falling by one third of a grade (A to A-, B+ to B, etc.).*
- 2) **Discussion in class (10%).** You need to be not only physically, but also intellectually present in class. *You need to do all the readings.* Ask questions, respond to each other, raise objections, defend what you believe in, etc.

- 3) **Submission of questions for discussion** (10%). Throughout the semester you must post under the “Discussion” section of Courseworks a total of 20 questions or comments prompted by your reading. These very short questions or comments (*about one paragraph*) are due by 3:30 p.m. on the day of class. You are free to pick the 20 readings you want to write about. Each thoughtful comment/question will be worth 0.5%.
- 4) **Two 5-page essays** (20% each). These essays (double-spaced, about 1500 words) must be sent to me by email as Word attachments (with a “.doc” extension, not “.docx”). Topics will be given out one week before each paper is due, but you can also choose your own topic (in which case I encourage you to talk with me about your topic before you start writing your paper).  
 *Penalty for late papers:* One third of a letter grade for each day (24 hours) late. For instance, the first paper is due on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. If you send it to me at 8:01 p.m., your maximum possible grade will be A-. If you send it on the next day at 7:59 p.m., your maximum grade will also be A-, but it will be B+ if you send it one minute later...
- 5) **Exams.** There will be an in-class mid-term on March 12<sup>th</sup> (20%), and a cumulative final exam on May 8<sup>th</sup> (20%). Both of these will be open-book exams.
- 6) **Plagiarism policy.** Any instance of plagiarism in papers and exams will result in an automatic F for this course and will not be negotiable. Any appeal should be submitted to the Dean’s office. Keep in mind that the Internet is a very useful tool, but that it needs to be used cautiously.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1/20: Kant, “What Is Enlightenment?” (on CC web)
- 1/22: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (pp. 33-109, in Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*)
- 1/27: Rousseau, *On the Social Contract* (entire, in Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*)
- 1/29: Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (selections on CC web)
- 2/3: Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. xxiii-xxvi, 3-23, 24-25, 62-99, 284-88, 299-301, 360-80, 407-12, 481-87, 819-24, 839-46
- 2/5: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 1-30 (until the end of the first paragraph)
- 2/10: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 30-51
- 2/12: American and French Revolutions (all selections on CC web):
- 1) *Declaration of Independence*
  - 2) *The Bill of Rights*
  - 3) Olympe de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Women”
  - 4) Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”
  - 5) Sieyès, “What is the Third Estate?”
  - 6) *Preface to the Constitution of 1793 (Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen)*
  - 7) Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
- 2/17: Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, chapters I-IV, IX

2/19: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, **Vol. 1**: “Author’s Introduction”; Part 1: chapters 3-4; Part 2: chapters 1, 6-7; **Vol. 2**: Part 1: chapters 1-2, 5; Part 2: chapters 1-2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16-17; Part 4, chapters 5-8

📧 **2/20: FIRST PAPER DUE** (electronic copy, sent to ps2403@columbia.edu by 8 p.m.)

2/24: Mill, *On Liberty* (entire, in *On Liberty and Other Essays*, pp. 5-128)

2/26: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (entire, in *On Liberty and Other Essays*, pp. 131-201)

3/3: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (entire)

3/5: *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 16-25, 143-200, 473-91, 594-617, 725-27

3/10: *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 236-44, 302-8, 319-29, 417-31

📧 **3/12: MID-TERM EXAM**

3/17 and 3/19: SPRING BREAK

3/24: Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*, pp. 95-98, 121, 131, 132-77, 379-98

3/26: CLASS CANCELLED

3/31: Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, pp. 15-96

4/2: Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, pp. 97-163

4/7: W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, chapters I-III, IX

4/9: Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (entire)

📧 **4/10: SECOND PAPER DUE** (electronic copy, sent to ps2403@columbia.edu by 8 p.m.)

4/14: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction (pp.xix-xxxvi), chapters 9, 18, 21, 23, 25, Conclusion

4/16: Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, pp. 1-34 (skim 25-34), 52-65, 77-135, 144-173

4/21: Foucault, *The Order of Things*, pp. ix-xxiv, 17-77

4/23: Foucault, *The Order of Things*, pp. 78-165

4/28: Foucault, *The Order of Things*, pp. 200-14, 217-53, 263-302

4/30: Foucault, *The Order of Things*, pp. 303-87

📧 **5/8: FINAL EXAM, 12:30-3:30**