

# Phil 28 Ethics and Society II

Syllabus  
Summer 2018

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## 1. Overview

In this class students will obtain a familiarity with classic texts in political philosophy by thinkers such as Rousseau, Burke, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Bentham and Marx. Much of our class will take the form of a role-playing game called Reacting to the Past. As the Reacting web site puts it, "Reacting to the Past (RTTP) consists of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work."

Our game takes place during the French Revolution. Students will be assigned roles of historical personalities such as King Louis XVI and the Marquis de Lafayette, Commander of the National Guard, as well as members of various political factions. Students will work in factions to pass bills in the 1791 National Assembly and achieve other goals. As one summary of the French Revolution game puts it, "you will make speeches, write articles, negotiate, make backroom deals, riot, perhaps stretch the truth on occasion, maybe even betray erstwhile allies. Along the way you will hopefully gain a greater appreciation of what is at stake in the revolution and why the passions it unleashed proved so very difficult to control."

For more information about Reacting to the Past see the following site:  
<https://reacting.barnard.edu>.

## 2. Assessment

Game participation: 29%

Newspaper assignments: 36%

Short assignment: 10%

Exam: 25%

## 3. Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the following books:

Jennifer Popiel, Mark Carnes and Gary Kates. *Rousseau, Burke and Revolution in France, 1791 Second Edition* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2015)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. Maurice Cranston, trans. (New York, Penguin 1968 [1762]).

### 1. Week of July 2: Rousseau Book I and Historical Background

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I

Game Book: "Declaration of the Rights of Man," pp. 120-23. "Versailles to Varennes," pp. 19-47; excerpts of de Secondat, Montesquieu, Voltaire and Rousseau, pp. 87-99.

Film: *Danton* (1983), dir. Andrzej Wajda.

**Paris excursion: walking tour of the French Revolution.** We will take the Viator French Revolution walking tour, beginning at Les Invalides and stopping at Notre Dame.

### 2. Week of July 9: Rousseau vs. Burke on Revolution

Game Book: Sieyès, pp. 108-110; "Declaration of the King," pp. 115-117; "August Decrees," pp. 117-120.

Game Book: "Roles and Factions," pp. 69-86.

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II

Game Book: Burke, pp. 145-67.

**Overnight Excursion: trip to Versailles.** We will visit the Palace of Versailles, original home of the National Assembly.

### 3. Week of July 16: Fallacies and Public Speaking Workshop

Trudy Govier, *A Practical Study of Argument*, sixth edition, "Working on Relevance," (Belmont, CA: Thomson, 2005), 148-77.

**Paris excursion: the Louvre and Tuileries Gardens.** We will visit the Louvre Museum and the adjacent Tuileries Gardens. The latter was the physical location of the National Assembly in 1791, which our game simulates.

4. Week of July 23: Rousseau and After the Revolution I

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book III and Book IV

Jeremy Bentham, "Anarchical Fallacies," in Waldron, *Nonsense Upon Stilts: Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987), pp. 46-69. (on TritonEd).

Karl Marx, "On The Jewish Question," in Waldron, *Nonsense Upon Stilts*, pp. 137-50 (On TritonEd).

**Two-three day excursion: We will travel to Geneva, Switzerland, birthplace of Rousseau, and visit Rousseau Island, Maison de Rousseau et de la Littérature and other sites.**

5. Week of July 30: After The Revolution II and End of Term Quiz

Jeremy Waldron, "Nonsense Upon Stilts? A Reply," Waldron, *Nonsense Upon Stilts: Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987), pp. 151-209. (on TritonEd).

#### 4. General Information

##### *4a Office Hours*

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. Drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy\_lamey). I am also available immediately after class or by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

##### *4b Email Policy*

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.

b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

#### *4c Late Work*

For all essays handed in late without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your professor. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

#### *4d Accommodation for Disability*

I am happy to provide accommodation to students with disabilities, whether physical or mental. Students requesting accommodations should provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone); osd@ucsd.edu (email); disabilities.ucsd.edu (web).

#### *4e Academic Integrity*

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

#### *4f Technology in the Classroom*

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in lecture. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.