

**PHM 3100: Social Philosophy**  
**University of South Florida, Spring 2008**

Thomas J. Brommage, Jr., M.A., ABD  
Office: FAO 230  
Email: [brommage@mail.usf.edu](mailto:brommage@mail.usf.edu)  
Website: <http://brommage.freeshell.org>

M/W 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM  
Cooper Hall (CPR) 126  
Office Hrs: M/W 10-11 AM & by appt.  
Office Phone: (813) 974-5459

**Course Objective:** The goal of this course is to give an examined analysis of rival theories of social order and their respective philosophical foundations. Accepting as a premise that the individual is affected—both as a political and economic agent—by one's social standing and/or one's social climate, the inquiry into these social forces will enrich not only the student's understanding of social theory, but also their roles within discussions in political and economic theory. The course will center upon arguments for (and criticisms of) several major contemporary views in social theory, viz., classical liberalism, socialism, critical social theory, and post-modernism. Some of the questions that will be asked (and hopefully answered) through the course include: What is the extent to which the social forces affect the individual? What are the social effects upon the political and/or economic well-being of the individual? How does one's labor play a role in this? How does the advent of technology (and the technology age) affect this? What are the political and epistemic consequences of one's social class? How do gender and/or racial considerations enter into the social standing of the individual? etc.

This is a writing intensive course, which meets the Gordon Rule requirement. Thus, you must prepare for extensive reading, thinking and writing required outside of class, as well as active participation and engagement of the reading in class, in order to do well in this course. This course also counts towards the Social Sciences and the Historical Perspectives distribution requirements.

**Required Texts:**

**John Locke, *Second Treatise*** (Hackett, 1990) ISBN: 0915144867, \$6

**J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*** (Hackett, 1978) ISBN: 0915144433, \$5

**Karl Marx, *Selected Writings***, ed. Lawrence Simon (Hackett, 1994) ISBN: 0872202186, \$11

**Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*** (Grove, 1965) ISBN: 0802141323, \$14

**Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*** (Vintage, 1995) ISBN: 0679752552, \$15

There will be some additional readings which will be available for download on my website, <http://brommage.freeshell.org>

**Course Schedule:** All dates and content scheduled is tentative and subject to change by the Instructor at any time for any reason.

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	TOPIC
7 Jan:	Introduction to Course; Begin Locke	

9 Jan:	John Locke, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Treatise I	The State of Nature
14 Jan:	Locke II	The Social Contract
16 Jan:	Locke III	Democracy
21 Jan:	MLK: No Class!	--
23 Jan:	J.S. Mill, On Liberty, I	Tyranny of the Majority
28 Jan:	Mill II	Individuality
30 Jan:	Mill III	"Applications"
4 Feb:	Mill IV	Dialectics 101
6 Feb:	Karl Marx, Selected Writings	Alienation
11 Feb:	Marx II	Capital
13 Feb:	Marx III	Capital II
18 Feb:	Marx IV	The Manifesto
20 Feb:	selections from DuBois [E]	Racism
25 Feb:	Fanon, Wretched of the Earth I	Colonialism
27 Feb:	Fanon II	Violence?
3 Mar:	Fanon III	National Consciousness
5 Mar:	Fanon IV	War and Mental Disorders
10-12 Mar:	Spring Break	Beach
17 Mar:	Fanon V	
19 Mar:	TBA	
24 Mar:	TBA	
26 Mar:	Foucault, Discipline and Punish I	Torture
31 Mar:	Foucault II	Punishment
2 Apr:	Foucault III	The Body and Visibility

7 Apr:	Foucault IV	Prison
9 Apr:	Foucault V	
14 Apr:	Foucault VI	
16 Apr:	TBA	
21 Apr:	TBA	
23 Apr:	Wrap-Up; Review	
28 Apr:	Final Exam (10:30 AM -12:30 PM)	

*Note on the Indeterminacy of Time:* Rarely is there enough time in the semester to cover everything an ideal course in philosophy should cover. Although everything on the reading list this summer is important, I reserve the right to alter the schedule to correspond with the pace of the class.

**Evaluation:** The main point of evaluation for this course will be 5 short response papers (3-5 pages in length) each due *one week following* the completion of each of the books. The one lowest grade on the short response papers will be “dropped” when calculating your final grade. *Late response papers will receive a full letter grade deduction per day late.* Please note that two copies of the paper are always required: one hard copy in class, the other uploaded to Blackboard (<http://my.usf.edu>), under “Assignments” (Note: NOT in the “Digital Dropbox”). Your grade will be reduced for failing to deliver both copies by the due date.

In addition to the short papers, an in-class comprehensive final exam will be given on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM, in conjunction with the University schedule. Anyone who cannot take the final exam for any reason must make arrangements to make it up at least one week prior to the scheduled exam date. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the exam.

The following weighting will be used to calculate your grade:

Short response Papers (3-5 pp.)	15% (each)
(best <i>four</i> of five grades) x 4 =	60 %
Attendance and Participation	20 %
Final Exam	20 %

As this course fulfills the “Gordon Rule” 6A Communication requirement, the University requires that students who do not complete all the written work for this class **will not receive a passing grade** for this class. Please complete all required written work assigned.

*Note on Academic Dishonesty:* Plagiarism is the ultimate mortal sin of academia. Please, cite properly and document accordingly anything that may appear in your written work for this class. If you are unclear about how to properly document a paper, simply ask me. But err on the side of caution: clear-cut cases of plagiarism (deemed so by myself) will result in the possibility of up to and including a “FF” for this class, and possible disciplinary action taken. Don't try me, I will catch you. All submissions for this class will be cleared through electronic methods to detect plagiarism.

If you are unsure of what plagiarism constitutes, I highly recommend you view the tutorial at the following link: <http://www.cte.usf.edu/plagiarism/index.html>. Ignorance of the law, as they say, is no excuse.

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to 1) request that assignments be submitted to me as electronic files and 2) electronically submit assignments to Blackboard (<http://my.usf.edu>). Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. For more information on Academic Dishonesty, consult the 2007/8 USF Undergraduate Catalog, pp. 45-6 or at: <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0708/adadap.htm>

### **Expectations, Suggestions and Mandates for an efficient class:**

1. Please arrive to class on time and expect to stay the entire duration of the class. If this is an impossibility, please make every attempt to notify me in advance of tardiness or absence.
2. Especially true in philosophy more than most other areas of study, diligence is important. Some of the reading will be difficult, since these are some of the most profound texts in the history of the world. The difficulty of the subject is indirectly proportional to the amount of work put into the course. Expect to have up to ten hours per week of reading and thinking in order to get an "A" for the course. Additionally, for these reasons, attendance is of vital importance.
3. Please come to class prepared (i.e., any reading assigned read, any questions concerning readings or lectures prepared, etc.)
4. Please be respectful of each other in the class. There will be times when students disagree about a topic discussed in class. This is a didactic process, not a combative one.
5. Due to the great excess of material and limited time in which we must over ground, please do not create a disruption for those people who are attempting to learn. Disruptions include blurting out answers, name calling, chiding each other, snoring, etc. Laughing at the Instructor's jokes is obviously exempted from this policy. In addition, personal audio devices (except those in use to record lectures) and loud crunching snack foods are prohibited from the classroom. **PLEASE TURN OFF your cellphones in class.**
6. Please feel free to make mistakes. We all will from time to time, even your omniscient instructor.
7. Please make use of my office hours. Waiting until the last moment in the semester to catch up is not advisable. I am excellent at fixing small problems, but horrendous at fixing large ones. The only difference between small and large problems is time.
8. Have fun! The material is only as dry as you make it out to be. Sharpening one's mind can be an exhilarating process.