

Political Science 24100
University of Chicago
Winter 2003

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Democracy and its Critics in the 19th Century

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30–11:50 am
Room: Public Policy 140C

This course surveys developments in British political thought from the French Revolution through the second Reform Act, focusing on the theory and practice of democracy. What did “democracy” mean in this period? How was it criticized and defended? How was it related to such other themes and phenomena as representation, liberty, interest, empire, gender, nationality, history, labor, and class? We shall read both canonical works of political theory and lesser-known essays and tracts, with close attention to their social and political contexts.

PREREQUISITES: Some prior background in political theory is recommended but not required.

ASSIGNMENTS: Students are expected to attend lectures as well as a weekly one-hour discussion section. There will be two papers (approximately 2000 and 4000 words), tentatively due February 3 and March 17.

LATE PAPER POLICY: Except in documented cases of illness or emergency, late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day, e.g. an A- paper one day late becomes a B+. However, each student may, at his or her discretion, take a 24-hour extension for *one* of the two papers. No questions asked, and you don’t need to warn me in advance that you’re going to do this; but you do need to tell me that you’re using the extension at the time you hand in the late paper.

PLAGIARISM is grounds for failing the course.

GRADES will be calculated as follows: first paper 35%, second paper 55%, attendance and participation at discussion sections, 10%.

READINGS: The following three books are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore:

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett)
Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man, Common Sense, and Other Political Writings*
(Oxford)
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford)

To avoid undue expense, a large amount of additional material is being made available through the Regenstein electronic reserve system. These are indicated with an (r). *You are strongly advised to print out this material well in advance, so that you may have access to it during lectures.* This material will also be available on paper reserve, as will copies of the three books listed above.

SCHEDULE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS

- Jan. 7: Introduction (no reading).
- Jan. 9: Burke, *Reflections*, 3–59
- Jan. 14: Burke, *Reflections*, 59–112; 146–67; 172–73; 217–218
- Jan. 16: Burke, “Speech to the Electors of Bristol” (r); “Speech on Reform of Representation” (r); “Letter to Sir Hercules Langrishe” (r); “Speeches on the Impeachment of Warren Hastings” (r).
- Jan. 21: Paine, “Rights of Man,” 83–144, 161–66
- Jan. 23: Paine, “Rights of Man,” 166–78, 190–97; 203–8; 222–37; “Letter Addressed to the Addressers,” 369–84
- Jan. 28: James Mill, “Government” (r); Bentham, “Plan of Parliamentary Reform” (r)
- Jan. 30: Macaulay, “Mill on Government” (r); “Parliamentary Reform” (r); “Minute on Indian Education” (r)
- Feb. 4: Thompson, “Appeal of One Half of the Human Race” (r)
- Feb. 6: Owen, “Report to the County of Lanark” (r); Kettering Radical Association, “The Just Claims of the Working Classes” (r).
- Feb. 11: Carlyle, “Chartism” (r)
- Feb. 14: J. S. Mill, “Bentham” and “Coleridge” (r).
- Feb. 18: J. S. Mill, “Tocqueville on Democracy in America” (r)
- Feb. 21: J. S. Mill, “Considerations on Representative Government,” in *On Liberty and Other Essays*, 204–68
- Feb. 25: J. S. Mill, “Considerations on Representative Government,” 269–345
- Feb. 27: J. S. Mill, “Considerations on Representative Government,” 353–69; 427–34; 447–67
- Mar. 4: Harriet Taylor Mill, “Enfranchisement of Women” (r); J. S. Mill, “Admission of Women to the Electoral Suffrage” (r)
- Mar. 6: Stephen, “Equality” (r); “Foundations of Government in India” (r)
- Mar. 11: Final session (no reading).