

How should power and wealth be distributed for the good of the Community?

Rousseau and the General Will under the Social Contract

I. PE 100: Terms and Conditions

Completion of all readings and attendance at lectures and weekly discussion sections are and membership in the Facebook group, Political Economy are required.*

Final Examination TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012 8-11AM PLEASE DO NOT BUY PLANE TICKETS OR MAKE OTHER PLANS. **THERE WILL BE NO EARLY OR LATE EXAMS.**

Attendance at lectures and section is required The use of laptops and PDAs in class is not permitted. Please take notes with paper and pen/pencil.

Your final course grade will be determined as follows: Section grade: 20 %, one quiz on Sept. 20 5%, Two Newspaper assignments 10%, Midterm Exam 25%, Final Exam 40%.

You are permitted to miss three lectures for any reason to accommodate extracurricular activities, sleep deficits, epidemics, earthquakes, etc. After three absences, we will deduct 5% from your participation grade (0.5% from your final grade) for each additional absence, regardless of why you missed class. You may be exempted for recurring issues such as membership in a sports team or a chronic illness. You should bring these issues to our attention before or immediately after you miss class and be prepared to provide supporting documentation.

CLASS CONDUCT

Reading Assignments

You are expected to complete all required readings by the date listed on the syllabus.

Disruptions

You are asked to follow basic etiquette in class by arriving and leaving on time, silencing all telecommunication devices, raising your hand before speaking in class and refraining from insults or threatening behavior--or any other behavior that would hurt others.. We will lower your participation grade if you do not adhere to these basic guidelines.

Late Papers

Late assignments will be deducted by two-thirds of a letter grade once the deadline has passed. Extensions and make-up exams are reserved for documented medical and family emergencies. Extension requests are more compelling if you contact us in advance about a potentially disruptive medical or family condition.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will be reported to Student Conduct and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. Any plagiarized work will result in a failing grade

Grade Changes

Computational errors should be brought our attention immediately. Other grade appeals should be submitted in writing no sooner than 7 days and no later than 21 days after receiving a graded assignment. Such appeals should explain why the previous grade was inaccurate in one to two pages and include a copy of the original assignment. Upon receipt of an appeal, we will re-grade the assignment in its entirety. We reserve the right to lower a grade if we discover mistakes that we overlooked initially.

II. Course Review so far.....

I. Introduction

A. Reasoned Debate

- B. Power, Wealth, and Purpose: Course Questions and three principles of purpose
- II The Purpose of Political Economy and the role of Human Nature in determining purpose: Nature and Community
 - A. The Classical View: Aristotle
 - B. From State of Nature to Social Contract to *create* Community: Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau
 - C. Human nature and market competition and the distribution of wealth: Smith, Polanyi, and “science”
- III. How should power and wealth be distributed for the good of the community?
 - A. Aristotle: They should each have different distribution principles
 - B. Aquinas: The church holds the power to determine how wealth is distributed.
 - C. Rousseau: The General Will

III. Review Just Price

- A. What is a “just price?”
 - 1. Definition
 - 2. norms holding community together
 - 3. Why do you need a Just price to hold the community together?
 - 4. Why did the Church set the price?
- B. 2009 Mortgage Crisis
- C. Thomas Aquinas modifies “Just Price” as the market takes over social life
 - 1. The questions

IV. Carrying out the General Will : Rousseau and the purpose of the state

- A. Review: Rousseau’s “Social Contract”
 - 1. Problem
 - 2. Solution
 - 3. Reasoning
 - 4. Principle
- B. How did Rousseau think like Plato and Aristotle?
- C. Positive Freedom and Human Nature under the Social Contract :
 - 1. Negative vs. positive freedom
 - 2. The role of rationality
- D. Ideal form of government in the Community: The General Will—A “republic”
 - 1. living in community makes us truly human
 - 2. like sticks in a bundle: Stronger together
 - 3. Equality replaces inequality
 - 4. A republic, not a democracy
 - 5. True freedom!
- E. How does the General Will work?
 - 1. The rule of Law
 - 2. Where does the "general will" come from?
 - 3. Forced to be free!
- F. The sovereign is indivisible and the General Will is for our own good
- G. Political Economy under the social contract
 - 1. Individual possession becomes the property of all.

2. When they join, they put their possessions in the hands of the sovereign.
3. The sovereign has the right of eminent domain.
4. Justice is the "Buffett Rule"

H. Find quotes in Rousseau that express the following.....

1. Rousseau does not believe in individualism!
2. He believes in a republican form of government-
3. The General Will strengthens us
4. Justice is equality
5. Justice is when the individual submits to the conditions he imposes on others.