

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4931 /4966

LOVE AND WISDOM: MODERN CONCEPTIONS

Marquette University
Spring 2010, MW 3:30-4:45, Wehr Physics 122

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

I. Course Description.

Today we often assume that love is a thing of the heart and wisdom a thing of the head. But can we really separate what our hearts feel from what our minds believe? Our course will be dedicated to uncovering the answer to this question provided in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Emile, or On Education*. In so doing, we will also critically examine Rousseau's views on several additional questions concerning the pursuit and achievement of human happiness, including the nature of pity and its relationship to love, the nature of self-love and its role in individual and communal life, the nature of religious belief and its role in promoting human happiness, and the nature of freedom.

In studying Rousseau's texts, our primary aim will be to acquire mastery of his concepts and arguments. By so doing, we will also seek to fulfill the course's mandate as a senior experience course. By providing participants with opportunities not only to reflect on these concepts and arguments but also to ask how exactly they bear on our own present and future lives, the course aims to bridge the gap between academic inquiry and "real life" in a manner consonant with the University's mission to promote our development as whole people, of hearts and minds alike.

II. Course Requirements.

1. Grading. Your final course grade will be comprised of four components: three 5-page papers (each worth 25%) and class participation (25%).

2. Written Assignments. This course will provide you with opportunities to improve your writing. These will take the form of an opportunity to revise and resubmit your first two written assignments in accord with the following policy. First, students will submit their written assignments in accord with the due dates and times listed in the schedule of assignments below. Within one week of receipt of your assignment, I will return your assignment with a grade and with minimal comments. You will then have the option to either a) accept as final the given grade; or b) revise and resubmit the assignment for a new grade. But be forewarned: along with the revised assignment you will also be required to submit a separate, comprehensive memo that details, point-by-point, each of the specific changes that you made to the original. This memo will also provide a detailed rationale that explains why you made each of these changes, and justifies them with references to recognized works of English style and grammar. We will discuss these memos at greater length as the due date for the first paper draws near. In the meantime, please note that you will have only one opportunity to submit a rewrite and memo for each paper. Please also note that the rewrite policy applies only to the first two papers and not to the third and final paper, the timing of which requires that the first draft submitted be accepted as final.

3. Class Participation. This course has an attendance policy (on which see below). But students are expected to do more than simply show up to class. Thorough preparation prior to each meeting and active participation while in class are also necessary if one hopes to master the material and receive a decent grade. In

preparing for class you are expected to read assignments with the maximum possible care. To help you prepare most effectively for our discussions I will distribute a short set of study questions on the assigned readings prior to each meeting. While in class you are expected to listen carefully to the contributions of your colleagues and to engage others through your own contributions. Students can expect to be called on at each meeting if they do not volunteer to speak. Those inexperienced in or uncomfortable with talking in class are encouraged to come see me early in the semester so that we can together develop strategies for effective participation. Finally, note from the above that the quality of your class participation can significantly affect your final grade in either an upward or downward direction.

III. Course Policies.

1. Attendance. Attendance at every meeting is expected. Roll will be taken at each meeting and excessive unexcused absences – defined in this course as missing five or more classes – will result in the student receiving a grade of “WA” if those absences occur prior to the university’s withdrawal deadline, and a grade of “F” if the fifth class is missed after the withdrawal deadline. Students who find themselves unable to attend a meeting of the course due to personal reasons or university-sanctioned activities are encouraged to come to see me as early as possible in the semester so that we can work out a mutually-agreeable means of making up the missed material.

2. Academic Dishonesty. The University has a clear policy on academic dishonesty; see pp. 40-44 of the Undergraduate Bulletin, available online at http://www.marquette.edu/cur_students/documents/ugb.pdf. All instances and suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accord with the policy there specified.

3. Electronic Devices. Please note that our course has a policy on the use of electronic devices. It’s the same as what governs most airlines in the friendly skies. That is, consider this the moment that our course has just ascended to our cruising altitude of 35,000 feet, and that consequently ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF FOR THE REMAINDER OF OUR FLIGHT. In simple terms, this means that any device with an on-off switch – including especially, but not only, cell phones and laptops – MUST be set to the off position (or, better yet, simply left at home) for the rest of the semester. Violations of this policy will be grounds for removal from the course. The exception will be if you have a legitimate and documentable need to use such a device – in which case please see me as soon as possible. Short of that, you are strongly encouraged to bring nothing more to class than your minds, your texts, and a pen and paper.

4. Late Assignments. Please note that assignments submitted after the due dates and times listed on this syllabus will not be accepted unless I authorize an extension in advance.

IV. Texts.

The course’s sole required text is Allan Bloom’s translation of *Emile* (Basic Books, 1979), copies of which are available at Bookmarq. The schedule below also lists several shorter writings by Rousseau; these will be posted on the course’s D2L page for downloading at your convenience. Please know that from time to time I may also post to D2L several short additional readings that will help to establish the context of Rousseau’s arguments; these will also become required readings for the course.

V. Schedule of Reading and Written Assignments: This schedule is unlikely to change in any significant way, but please know that I reserve the right to amend it if necessary. Please also note days on which class is cancelled due to the university's vacation schedule or for other reasons. And finally, please note that each of the assignments below refers to the material to be covered in the two sessions for each week. Be prepared to discuss the week's assignment in its entirety at each Monday session.

Week 1 of January 18: Introduction

Week 2 of January 25: *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*

Week 3 of February 1: *Emile*, Preface and Book I (pp. 33-74)

Week 4 of February 8: *Emile*, Book II (pp. 52-124)

Week 5 of February 15: *Emile*, Book II (pp. 124-163)

PAPER #1 DUE AT 3:30 PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Week 6 of February 22: *Emile*, Book III (pp. 165-208)

Week 7 of March 1: *Emile*, Book IV (pp. 211-260)

Week 8 of March 8: "Letter to Voltaire"; "Letter to Beaumont"; *Social Contract* 4.8

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 14-21

Week 9 of March 22: *Emile*, Book IV (pp. 260-313)

Week 10 of March 29: *Emile*, Book IV (pp. 313-355)

PAPER #2 DUE AT 3:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

EASTER BREAK: APRIL 1-5

Week 11 of April 5: *Julie* (selections TBD)

Week 12 of April 12: *Emile*, Book V (pp. 357-406)

Week 13 of April 19: *Emile*, Book V (pp. 406-450)

Week 14 of April 26: *Emile*, Book V (pp. 450-480)

Week 15 of May 3: *Emile and Sophie*

PAPER #3 DUE AT 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, MAY 15