

# The Making of Modern Thought

Hist 383 –001  
Spring 2012  
January 17<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>

Dr. Joyce M. Mullan

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Classroom: KUPF Hall, Room 110

Class meets: Tuesdays - Thursdays: 8:30 – 9:55 a.m.

Office Hours: Tuesdays - Thursdays: 8:00-8:30 a.m., or by appointment, Room 321 Cullimore Hall

## Course Description

This course is about the formation of contemporary images of human nature from the late Eighteenth to the early Twentieth Century. We will consider Darwin, Mill, Smith, Marx and Freud, among others, and their legacy to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Thought. Theories of the family, sexuality, and the changing role of women in society are also explored.

## Course Requirements

Careful reading of the assigned texts and thoughtful participation in discussions about the material are very important. Students are expected to come to every class and to come on time. Please see attendance policy. If students have to miss a class, they should email me in advance. Grades will be based on the following:

**Two argument papers of 4-5 pages.** Topics and instructions for the papers will be distributed the first week of class. Please read the instructions for the paper closely as grades will partly be based on whether you carried them out. The most important criterion is that you demonstrate that you have carefully read the original text in detail and then come to your own conclusions.

Late papers will be penalized 5% for each day late. All papers will be checked for plagiarism. Plagiarized papers will receive a grade of 'F' with no chance of make-up and will be reported to the Dean. Please see Academic Integrity at the NJIT website (<http://integrity.njit.edu/index.html>). **First Paper due February 23rd, Second Paper due April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Students that require help with writing are encouraged to take advantage of the free tutoring available at NJIT.

**Midterm and Final in class exams.** The exams will consist of short answer, identification questions, and 2-3 essays questions. One make-up exam allowed for documented emergency situations. No one will be permitted to leave the room and return once the exam has started. Students with special needs are advised to make arrangements with Disability Services for exam accommodations. **Midterm: March 6<sup>th</sup>, Final Exam, as listed on NJIT website.** Study guides will be made available before the exams.

The final grade will be based on:

Midterm exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Papers: 25% each

Borderline grades will be determined in accordance with attendance in the class: perfect or excellent attendees are likely to get the higher grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every class. This is an early class, but you should be prepared to arrive on time. If you arrive after attendance is taken it is your responsibility to make your presence known after class. Students are allowed two 'free' absences during the semester. Absences beyond that, except for a documented emergency, will result in student's final grade being lowered one half grade. You should plan on attending every class, however, as it will greatly help you do well in the course. .

**Personal electronic information and communication devices:** All computers, cell phones, blackberries, iphones (in any permutations and operating models) beepers, audio devices with or without earpieces, headsets, laptops, notebooks, etc. must be turned off and put away during class. **These devices create disturbing distractions and inhibit one's full grasp of the material.**

Academic integrity and honesty are extremely important. The NJIT Honor Code will be upheld and any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students.

### Course Readings:

Perry, Marvin, *An Intellectual History of Modern Europe*, (1993)  
ISBN-10: 0395653487  
ISBN-13: 978-0395653487  
Knoebel, Edgar, editor, *Classics of Western Thought: The Modern World*, Volume 3, 4<sup>th</sup> edition  
ISBN-10: 0155076841  
ISBN-13: 978-0155076846

Students may also access original readings of classic writers for the papers at the following url addresses:

### 1st paper

Rousseau *Social Contract*, (<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>)  
Mill from his *On Liberty*, Chapter II (<http://www.bartleby.com/130/2.html>),  
Voltaire's *Candide* (<http://www.literature.org/authors/voltaire/candide/>)  
Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* ([http://www.constitution.org/eb/rev\\_fran.htm](http://www.constitution.org/eb/rev_fran.htm))  
Darwin's *Origin of Species* (<http://www.literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-origin-of-species/>) and look up Herbert Spencer on Social Darwinism  
Beccaria *On Crime and Punishment* ([http://www.constitution.org/cb/crim\\_pun.htm](http://www.constitution.org/cb/crim_pun.htm))

### 2nd paper

Adam Smith *Wealth of Nations* (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3300/3300-8.txt>)  
Karl Marx *Communist Manifesto* (<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>)  
Bakunin "Principles and Organization of the International Brotherhood"  
([http://dev.prenhall.com/divisions/hss/app/BW\\_TEST/Western\\_History/documents/Michael\\_Bakunin\\_Principles\\_and\\_Organization\\_of\\_the\\_International\\_Brotherhood\\_.htm](http://dev.prenhall.com/divisions/hss/app/BW_TEST/Western_History/documents/Michael_Bakunin_Principles_and_Organization_of_the_International_Brotherhood_.htm))  
Freud, "Why War" ([http://www.zionism-israel.com/Albert\\_Einstein/Einstein\\_Freud\\_Why\\_War.htm](http://www.zionism-israel.com/Albert_Einstein/Einstein_Freud_Why_War.htm) - includes Einstein and Freud's letters on the topic)  
Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals* (<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/nietzsche/genealogytofc.htm>)  
Ibsen, *A Doll's House*, Act 3 (<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2542>)  
Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, (<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91r/>)

Students may also consult original readings online at: Project Gutenberg ([http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)), University of Virginia etext library (<http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/etext/index.html>) or MITOPENCOURSEWARE (<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/foreign-languages-and-literatures/21f-059-european-thought-and-culture-spring-2008/readings/>)

Copies of the Perry and Knoebel book are also on reserve at NJIT library.

### **Additional Online Scholarly Resources**

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: *plato.stanford.edu*

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: [www.iep.utm.edu](http://www.iep.utm.edu)

JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/journals/00905917.html>

### **Course Outline**

The instructor may modify or alter the course outline to make up for lost classes due to weather conditions, health, or other reasons or when she feels it would help to attain course objectives, or for any other such reasons. However, tentatively:

#### **Week 1 – 3**

Introduction: The Nature of Intellectual and Cultural History

#### **Roots of the Modern Era**

- 1. The Age of Enlightenment: Affirmation of Reason and Freedom**  
Perry, pp. XV-XVI, top; chapter 5, pp. 130-145; 146-165  
Knoebel, *Classics*, Preface to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, pp. V-IX
- 2. Romantic Reactions**  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, film clip  
(<http://www.literature.org/authors/shelley-mary/frankenstein/>)

#### **Weeks 4 - 12**

#### **Rise of Nineteenth Century Classical Ideologies: Liberalism, “Rational Man and the Value of the Individual**

Perry, chapter 7, pp. 203-213, 232 bottom – 239, chapter 8, pp. 243-249

- 1. John Stuart Mill: Preservation of the “Rational Individual”**  
Perry, pp. 213-220 top; pp. 275-279 top  
*Classics*, No. 20, Mill, “On Liberty,” pp. 323-337
- 2. Charles Darwin: Liberalism and the New Biology**  
Perry, pp. 249-254 top  
*Classics*, No. 22, Darwin, “Origin of Species” & “Descent of Man,” pp. 350-366  
Film clip: *Angels & Insects*

### 3. Karl Marx: The Challenge to Liberal Humanism

- a. Foundations  
Perry, pp. 190-200, pp. 220-224, pp. 228-232  
*Classics*, No. 13, Smith, "The Wealth of Nations," pp. 166-177  
No. 21, Hegel, "Reason in History," pp. 338-349
- b. Analysis of Laissez-Faire Capitalism, History of Socialism  
Perry, pp. 254-266  
*Classics*, No. 23, Marx, "The Communist Manifesto," pp. 367-389
- c. Revolutionary Socialism: Anarchism  
Perry, pp. 266-268  
*Classics*, No. 24, Bakunin, "Anarchism," pp. 390-404

### Weeks 13 - 15

#### The "Crisis" of the European Mind: The Attack on Liberalism, the Discovery of "Nonrational" Man and the Modern Consciousness

Perry, chapter 9, pp. 293-294

#### 1. In Search of the "Lost" Dimension: The Undiscovered "Self"

- a. Friedrich Nietzsche: Superman, Perry, pp. 294-303  
*Classics*, No. 27, Nietzsche, "The Genealogy of Morals," pp. 443-457
- b. Sigmund Freud: Civilization and the Mental Personality  
Perry, pp. 311-321  
*Classics*, No.39, Freud, "Why War," pp. 546-559  
*Classics*, No. 31, Jung, "Approaching the Unconscious," pp. 560-576

#### 2. Artists and Literary Rebels: The Self-Enchanted

Perry, pp. 333-341

#### 3. The Modernist Movement and the Theme of Alienation

Perry, pp. 322-332, pp. 345-349

#### 4. The Woman Question

Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House," (Film clip of Act III)

Virginia Woolf's "A Room of one's Own," Knoebel, pp. 634-649

### Important Dates

First Paper due: February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Midterm Exam: March 6<sup>th</sup>

Withdrawal Deadline: March 7<sup>th</sup>

Final Paper due: April 19<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam: **as listed on NJIT website (December 14 – 20)**

Feel free to email me any questions about the course or requirements or drop by my office hours.