

FSEM II JGA: First-Year Seminar II, Spring 2014

Class meetings: Monday, 3:10-4:30pm, Albee 106
Wednesday, 3:10-4:30pm, Olin 305

Instructor: James Green-Armytage e-mail: armytage@bard.edu

Office: 211 Albee Hours: Tues & Thurs 3-4pm; Weds 2-3pm

Course web site: <http://inside.bard.edu/~armytage/fysems14>

Components of the course

- Reading!
- Class discussions. Sign up with me to lead particular discussions
- Student symposia: Sign up for your topic on Moodle. Key is “register!” One response for each symposium, and one reflection on your own presentation.
- Plenary sessions on Equiano and Büchner. Responses of one page each.
- Three papers (approx. five pages, topics to be announced), each with a first and second draft.

Provisional Course Schedule (subject to change!)

Week 1

27 Jan. John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, 1689, Chapters I-V [23 pages]

29 Jan. John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, 1689, Chapters VI-VIII & XVI [45]

Week 2

03 Feb. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, 1754, Dedication; Part I [34]

03 Feb. 1st Student Mentor Workshop

05 Feb. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, 1754, Part I, cont., Part II [24]

Week 3

10 Feb. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, 1754, Part II

10 Feb. 2nd Student Mentor workshop

12 Feb. Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, 1789, Chapters I-V [48]

Week 4

17 Feb. Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, 1789, Chapters VI-XII [61]

17 Feb. Paper #1 Assigned

17 Feb. Plenary Session: Olaudah Equiano

Prof: Myra Armstead

19 Feb. Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 1792 (Moodle) [30]

Week 5

24 Feb. Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals*, 1785, Preface & Section I [18]

24 Feb. Paper #1 Draft Due

24 Feb. 3rd Student Mentor Workshop

26 Feb. Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals*, 1785, Sections II & III [35]

02 Mar Symposium I

Week 6

03 Mar. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818, Preface, Volume I [54]

03 Mar. Paper #1 Revision Due

05 Mar. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818, Volume II [44]

Week 7

10 Mar. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818, Volume III [55]

12 Mar. Georg Büchner, *Woyzeck*, 1836, Complete Play [35]

Week 8

17 Mar. Georg Büchner, *The Hessian Messenger*, 1834, Complete Tract [10]

19 Mar. Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, 1844, Preface; “Estranged Labor” [13]

19 Mar. Paper #2 Assigned

Week 9

24 Mar. Spring Break

26 Mar. Spring Break

Week 10

31 Mar. Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, 1844, “Private Property & Communism” [26]

31 Mar. 1st Student Mentor Workshop (Group 2)

02 Apr. Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, 1887, Preface; First Essay [31]

02 Apr. Paper #2 Draft Due

Week 11

07 Apr. Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, 1887, Second Essay [32]

07 Apr. 2nd Student Mentor Workshop (Group 2)

09 Apr. Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, 1887, Third Essay [52]

09 Apr. Paper #2 Revision Due

Week 12

14 Apr. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization & its Discontents*, 1930, Chapters 1-3 [53]

14 Apr. Plenary Session: Alban Berg, *Wozzeck*, 1922

Prof. Christopher Gibbs

16 Apr. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization & its Discontents*, 1930, Chapters 4-6 [35]

Week 13

21 Apr. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization & its Discontents*, 1930, Chapters 7-8 [36]

21 Apr. 3rd Student Mentor Workshop (Group 2)

23 Apr. Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 1958, Preface to 1st Edition; Chapters 1 & 5 [42]

27 Apr. Second Student Symposium

Week 14

28 Apr. Advising Day

30 Apr. Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 1958, Chapter 9 & 12 (part 3, only) [50]

Week 15

05 May Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 1958, Chapter 13 [23]

05 May Paper #3 Assigned

07 May catch-up day

Week 16

12 May catch-up day

12 May Paper #3 Draft Due

14 May catch-up day

Week 17

19 May catch-up day

19 May Paper #3 Revision Due

Other remarks

- I do not like the idea of giving grades for a course like this, but I have to do it. They will be based on written work and participation. The main thing I want to see is that students are engaging seriously with the course. That means reading the texts, understanding them on their own terms, finding ideas in them that you can make your own and carry forward in new ways, contributing to class discussions, working hard on writing insightful and scholarly papers, working within teams to make valuable symposia presentations, etc. In terms of percentages, I'd say something like 50% for your papers, 10% for your symposium and plenary responses, and 40% for symposium presentations and class participation (including discussion leadership).
- More than two unexcused absences will hurt your grade both directly and indirectly.
- The number of 'catch-up days' above corresponds to the number of days allotted in the default syllabus for *Absalom, Absalom!* I am leaning toward dropping this from the schedule for our section. This gives us four free days, enabling us to avoid a hurried pace in covering other texts, and to bring in some related material. The details are to be announced.
- Please bring the assigned texts to class. Get the assigned editions to avoid page number mismatches. These are as follows:

Texts

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ed. Macpherson (Hackett, 1980)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*, ed. Cress; trans. Gray (Hackett, 1987)

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, ed. Sollors (Norton, 2001)

Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, trans. Ellington (Hackett, 1993)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Norton, 2012)

Karl Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Tucker (Norton, 1978)

Georg Büchner, *Complete Plays, Lenz, and Other Writings*, trans. Reddick (Penguin, 1994)

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality and Other Writings*, ed. Ansell-Pearson, trans. Diethelm (Cambridge UP, 2006)

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, trans. Strachey (Norton, 2010)

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1973)