

# FSEM II JGA: First-Year Seminar II, Spring 2015

**Class meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:50pm, Olin 305 (Moon Room)

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

Office: 213 Albee Hours: by appointment

**Course web site:** <http://inside.bard.edu/~armytage/teaching.html>

## Components of the course

- Reading!
- Class discussions. Sign up with me to lead particular discussions
- Student symposia: The class will break up into three groups, with topics representing student preferences. One response for each symposium, and one reflection on your own presentation.
- Plenary sessions. Responses of one page each.
- Three papers (approx. five pages, topics to be announced), each with a first and second draft.

## The readings

- Locke I: John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, 1689, Chapters I-V  
Locke II: \_\_\_\_, Chapters VI-VIII & XVI
- Paine: Thomas Paine, "Agrarian Justice". Handout.
- Rousseau I: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, 1754, Dedication; Part I  
Rousseau II: \_\_\_\_, Part I, cont., Part II
- Equiano I: Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, 1789, Chapters I-V  
Equiano II: \_\_\_\_, Chs. VI-XII
- Wollstonecraft I: Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 1792, Intro, Chapters I-II  
Wollstonecraft II: \_\_\_\_, Intro, Chapters I-II
- Kant: *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals*, 1785, Preface, Sections I & 2
- Shelley I: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818, Volume I, Volume II Chapters I-III  
Shelley II: \_\_\_\_, remainder of Volume II, Volume III
- Marx I: Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, 1844, "Estranged Labor"  
Marx II: \_\_\_\_, "Private Property & Communism", "Meaning of Human Requirements", "Power of Money"
- Nietzsche I: *On the Genealogy of Morality*, 1887, Preface; First Essay  
Nietzsche II: \_\_\_\_, Second Essay  
Nietzsche III: Excerpts from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Handout.
- Freud I: Sigmund Freud, *Civilization & its Discontents*, 1930, Chapters 1-3  
Freud II: \_\_\_\_, Chapters 4-6  
Freud III: \_\_\_\_, Chapters 7-8
- Ellison I: Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*, 1952, Prologue, Chapters 1-8  
Ellison II: \_\_\_\_, Chapters 9-17  
Ellison III: \_\_\_\_, Chapters 18-25, Epilogue
- Student-nominated readings I: To be determined!  
Student-nominated readings II: \_\_\_\_

## Tentative due dates

First paper: First draft due 2/24, second draft due 3/12  
Second paper: First draft due 4/7, second draft due 4/22  
Third paper: Just one draft. Due 5/26

## Plenary sessions and symposia

Plenary Session I: Monday, 2/16, 4:45  
Student Symposium I: Monday, 3/2, 4:45  
Plenary Session II: Monday, 3/30, 4:45  
Student Symposium II: Monday, 4/13, 4:45  
Plenary Session III: Monday, 4/20, 4:45

## Other remarks

- To the extent that I can honestly attempt to ‘grade’ your work, the main thing I want to see is you’re 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.
- More than two unexcused absences will hurt your grade both directly and indirectly.
- 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)  
Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. (Norton, 2009)  
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. Diethe (Cambridge UP, 2006)  
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, trans. Strachey (Norton, 2010)  
Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*. (Vintage, 1995)