

# FSEM II JGA: First-Year Seminar II, Spring 2016

**Class meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:50pm, Olin 306

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

Office: 213 Albee Hours: Tues and Thurs 3pm-4pm, and 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
- Plenary sessions. Responses of one page each.
- Two academic papers (approx. five pages, topics to be announced), each with three drafts.
- One informal reflection paper.

## 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, Preface and Part I

Rousseau II: \_\_\_\_, Part II

Wright: Excerpts from *The Moral Animal*. Handout.

Equiano I: Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, 1789, Chapters I-III

Equiano II: \_\_\_\_, Chs. IV-VII

Equiano III: \_\_\_\_, Chs. VIII-XII

Wollstonecraft I: Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 1792, Intro, Chapters I-II

Wollstonecraft II: \_\_\_\_, Chapters III-IV

Kant: *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals*, 1785, Preface, Sections I & 2

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: Excerpts from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Handout.

Nietzsche II: *On the Genealogy of Morality*, 1887, Preface; First Essay

Nietzsche III: \_\_\_\_, Second Essay

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

James-nominated readings: Chuang Tzu, Dogen, Schopenhauer, Kafka. (Handouts.)

Student-nominated readings I-IV: To be determined by you!

## Due dates

First academic paper

First draft due March 1

Second draft due March 15

Third draft due April 5

Second academic paper

First draft due April 26

Second draft due May 10

Third draft due May 31

Reflection paper: Just one draft. Due May 31

Self-Assessment due May 31

## Symposia (all in Sosnoff Auditorium at 4:45)

Monday, March 14

Monday, March 28

Monday, April 11

Monday, May 9

## 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 papers, etc.
- More than two unexcused absences will hurt your grade both directly and indirectly.
- Please bring the assigned texts to class. Please get paper copies, so that you don't have to have a laptop open during 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)

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)

Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*. (Vintage, 1995)