

It is my way to suffer no impediment, no love of ease, no avocation whatever, to chill the ardour, to break the continuity, or divert the completion of my literary pursuits.

John Milton

For genius, all over the world, stands hand in hand, and one shock of recognition runs the whole circle round.

Herman Melville

Honors 354.2

ELEMENTS OF POLITICS

Spring 2008

Professor Goldberg: 328 Greenlaw Hours: MW 5:45-6:15 , after class & by appt.
E-mail: school: lagoldbe@email.unc.edu
home: amicis@earthlink.net

Course requirements: 5 precis, one essay, a final exam

Kant, *On History* (Macmillan)
Hegel, *Philosophy of History* (Dover)
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (U. of Chicago, ed. Mansfield)
Mill, *On Liberty* (Hackett)
Darwin, *Origin of Species*
Marx, *Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton)
Melville, *Billy Budd* (Signet)
Lincoln, *Portable Abraham Lincoln* (Viking-Penguin)
Dostoevski, Grand Inquisitor from *Brothers Karamazov* (Signet)
Nietzsche, *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life* (Hackett)
Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (Vintage)
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Penguin)

Jan. 9 Introduction: Xenophon (c. 430-c. 354 B.C.), *Memorabilia*; Nietzsche (1844-1900), *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886)

14 Immanuel Kant (1724-1804): "What is Enlightenment?"; "Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View"; "Conjectural Beginning of Human History"--pp. 3-26, 53-68; "The End of All Things"--pp. 75(b)-82(b); "An Old Question Raised Again"--pp. 137-154

16 ----- "Perpetual Peace"--pp. 85-135

23 -----

28 Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831): *Philosophy of History* (1840 edition)
Introduction--pp. 1-40

30 -----pp. 40-79

Feb. 1 **PRECIS ONE** (750 words)

Feb. 4 -----pp. 103-110; 318-336; 412-427; 438-57

6 -----

Feb. 8 **PRECIS TWO**

11 Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859): *Democracy in America* (1835; 1840): pp. 3-15, 27-65, 82.3-98.1, 149b-161, 165-170, 187-190.1

13 -----pp. 217.1-258.1

18 -----pp. 264.5-302.2, 379.2-390, 395.3-396, 403-410, 417-424.1, 426.5-428.4, 469.5-472.4, 479-484, 485.4-492, 496-509, 511.3-517t, 526.5-532, 535-539.4

20 -----pp. 587.2-604.5, 606.2-617.1, 639-643.1, 661-676

25 Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865): pp. 17-28, 41, 97-140

27 Lincoln: pp. 195-204, 271-3, 295, 302-304, 320-21

29 **PRECIS THREE**

Mar. 3 Herman Melville (1819-1891): "Billy Budd" (1924)

5 -----

17 John Stuart Mill (1806-1873): "On Liberty" (1859)--Chapters I-V (entire)

19 -----

24 Charles Darwin (1809-1882): *The Origin of Species* (1859)--Chapters 3-4 (74-132, but omit 96b-105); Chapter 6--pp. 171(b)-174; Chapter 8 (233-262); pp. 458-9

26 -----*Descent of Man* (1871)--handout

28 **PRECIS FOUR**

31 Karl Marx (1818-1883): pp. 4-5, 13-15; "The Communist Manifesto" (1848), pp. 473-500, *Theses on Feuerbach* (1845); *The German Ideology* Part I (1846) pp. 143-200

April 2 ----- *Capital* (1867) Bk I, part I, chap i, secs. 1, 2, 4 pp. 302-312; 319-329; also pp. 542-548

7 Fyodor Dostoevski (1821-1881), *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879-80)--Part II, Book V, Chapters 3-5--The Grand Inquisitor

9 Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900): *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life* (1874)

14 *The Genealogy of Morals* (1887)

16 -----

21 -----

23 **FINAL EXAM I**--Joseph Conrad (1857-1924): "The Heart of Darkness" (1902)

25 **PRECIS FIVE**

May **1250 WORD ESSAY.**

May 2 **FINAL EXAM II—4:00-6:30:** "The Heart of Darkness"

DAILY ASSIGNMENT: For each and every class you are to isolate and analyze at least two passages which you think are quite significant for understanding the assigned reading. Be prepared either to call attention to that special significance or to raise some question pertaining to the passages with which you have wrestled.

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysic of Morals, Critique of Practical Reason*; Hegel, *Philosophy of History*; Melville, "Benito Cereno"; Lincoln, Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Speech at Cooper Union; Dostoevski, *The Devils* (also translated as *The Possessed*); Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*; Conrad, *The Secret Agent, Under Western Eyes, Nostromo*; Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*