

*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 2007

Professor Goldberg: 328 Greenlaw Hours: MW 5:45-6:15 , after class & by appt.

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Course requirements: 3 precis, two essays, a final exam

Required Texts: Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*  
Churchill, *The Gathering Storm*  
Orwell, *A Collection of Essays*  
Arendt, *The Human Condition*  
Arendt, *Totalitarianism*  
Arendt, *On Revolution*  
Strauss, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*  
Berlin, *Liberty*

- Jan. 10 Introduction; C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*
- Jan. 17 Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*: Introduction, Chapter One-Two (11-114)
- Jan. 22 *On Revolution*: Chapter Three-Four (115-178)
- Jan. 24 *On Revolution*: Chapter Five (179-214)
- Jan. 29 *On Revolution*: Chapter Six (215-281)
- Jan. 31 *On Revolution* (begin Churchill reading)
- Feb. 5 Churchill, *The Gathering Storm*: Preface (xiii-xiv), Chapter I-VI (3-98)
- Feb. 7 *The Gathering Storm*: Chapter VII-IX (99-147)
- Feb. 9 **PRECIS I** (750 words)
- Feb. 12 *The Gathering Storm*: Chapter X-XVI (148-268)
- Feb. 14 *The Gathering Storm*: Chapter XVII-XVIII (268-304)
- Feb. 19 *The Gathering Storm*: Chapter XIX-XXIV (305-403)
- Feb. 21 George Orwell, *A Collection of Essays* (148-180)
- Feb. 23 **PRECIS II** (750 words)
- Feb. 26 *Totalitarianism*: Introduction (v-xxii) Chapter One (3-39), Chapter Two: Section i (39-62)

- Feb. 28 *Totalitarianism*: Chapter Two: Section ii (62-86)
- Mar. 5 *Totalitarianism*: Chapter Three (87-157)
- Mar. 7 *Totalitarianism*: Chapter Four (158-177)
- Mar. 19 Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*: Prologue, Chapter I-II (1-78)
- Mar. 21 *The Human Condition*: Chapter III, sections 11-13 (79-101)
- Mar. 23 **PRECIS III** (750 words)
- Mar. 26 *The Human Condition*: Chapter III, sections 14-17, Chapter IV (101-174)
- Mar. 28 *The Human Condition*: Chapter V, sections 24-28 (175-207)
- Apr. 2 *The Human Condition*: Chapter V, sections 29-34, Chapter VI, sections 35-38 (207-280)
- Apr. 4 *The Human Condition*: Chapter VI, sections 39-45 (280-325)
- Apr. 9 Leo Strauss, *An Introduction*: “What is Political Philosophy?” (3-57)
- Apr. 11 Leo Strauss, *An Introduction*: “On Classical Political Philosophy” (59-79)
- Apr. 16 Leo Strauss, *An Introduction*: “The Three Waves of Modernity,” “Natural Right and The Historical Approach” (81-124)
- Apr. 18 Leo Strauss, *An Introduction*: “An Epilogue” (125-155)
- Apr. 20 **ESSAY I** (1500 words)
- Apr. 23 Isaiah Berlin, *Liberty*: “Two Concepts of Liberty” (166-217)
- Apr. 25 “Two Concepts”
- Apr. 30 **ESSAY II** (1000 words)
- May 4 **Final Exam**: George Orwell, *Essays* (180-210), Exchange on Pacifism (handout)

STANDING ASSIGNMENT FOR EACH DAY OF CLASS: Be ready with at least two passages which you consider of fundamental importance for understanding the assigned reading. If you are puzzled by a passage, attempt to formulate carefully why you suspect that this passage is illuminating and what it is that confuses you about it. If you have an opinion as to what it means, attempt to show how this meaning bears upon the subject under discussion.

SUGGESTED SUMMER READINGS: Simon Leys, *Prisoner of Mao*; Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*; Czeslaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind*; Varlan Shalanov, *Kolyma Tales*; Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*