

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
ORIGINS OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT
77.333 Section L01 (Slot 2 - 9:30 - 10:20)

September 2005
Term 1, 3 Credit hours

Instructor: Professor C. Axelrod
Office: 301-D Isbister
Hours: After class and by appointment
Phone: 474-8458
Class location: 384 University College

REQUIRED READINGS:

Plato, Great Dialogues of Plato, 1984, Mentor Publishing Co.
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, translated by David Ross, 1980, Oxford Press.
Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan, ed. C.B. MacPherson, 1981, Penguin.
J.-J. Rousseau, The Social Contract, 1968, Penguin.
Machiavelli, The Prince, 1952, Mentor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To introduce students to various writers of social philosophy whose work precedes the advent of sociology in the 19th century, but who have had significant influence on the discipline of sociology.

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

The course is divided into three segments. The first consists of lectures on Plato and Aristotle. These will take approximately five to six weeks. The second consists of lectures on Hobbes and Rousseau which will occupy us for the next five to six weeks. The remainder of the course will consist of lectures on Machiavelli.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. An essay test on Plato written in class on Friday, September 30th worth 30% of the final grade.
2. An essay on Aristotle, of approximately 800 words, due Oct. 17th, worth 15% of the final grade..
3. A take-home essay test on Hobbes and Rousseau, of approximately 1200 words, due Monday, November 28th worth 40% of the final grade.

4. An essay test on Machiavelli written in class on Friday, December 2nd worth 15% of the final grade.

Your essays are being evaluated on a letter grade system, not on a point system that is converted to a letter grade. The main benchmarks for the grade ranges can be described as follows:

D/F= an answer which is factually weak, faulty analysis, and very poor organization.

C= an answer which is mostly complete in terms of facts but suffers from poor analysis, organization and integration. Knowing the facts is a good start, but only a beginning.

B= answer is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated.

A= answer factually complete, well organized, sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a good degree of comprehension.

No make-up tests or late assignments except for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness as attested by a medical certificate).

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is November 16, 2005.

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p. 25) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p.26) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.