Republicanism and the Good Society
PLSC 4369

Time: MWF 12-1
Professor: Michael Lusztig
Office: Carr Collins Hall 204
Phone: 214 768-3530
Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00;Th 10:00-11:00; and by appointment

This course examines one of the most important, yet potentially divisive, concepts of contemporary liberal democracy – republicanism. It traces the roots of republicanism from its ancient origins, through the English Commonwealth Era, the American Founding. We will discuss the republican values of virtue, corruption and fate, and show how these have been reconciled with liberalism. Finally, we shall demonstrate that republicanism has the potential to sow the seeds of inter-community discord.

5-6 page paper proposal and annotated bibliography*
due Oct 22**  20%
15 page term paper due Nov 16**  25%
Mid term exam Oct 12  25%
Professionalism  5%
Final Exam Dec 10 (3:00-6:00)  25%

* The paper proposal and annotated bibliography should take at least 3 weeks to research. The proposal will constitute the outline for your term paper, and should be roughly 2-3 pages long. Note that you will not be expected to have completed the research for your term paper, but should have made enough of a start to give me a good idea about the direction in which you will be heading. The annotated bibliography will be appended to the proposal. It will contain two-paragraph discussions about the six most important sources used in your research to date. The first paragraph will constitute a summary of the book or article. The second will describe why the source is important for your research. A good proposal and bibliography will make it much easier for you to write, and do well on, your term paper.

** Late assignments lose three points per day (including weekends). Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted. In the interest of fairness, no excuses (barring documented illness, injury, or family emergency) will be accepted.

Professionalism
Part of my job is to assess your predicted performance in the work place or graduate school. This professionalism grade will be affected by tardiness to class, disruptive behavior such as reading or talking during class, and failure to keep or come on time to scheduled appointments.

Blackboard
You will be expected to sign up for Blackboard. A full list of my policies and your responsibilities is available there, as are tips, resources, and announcements. Please be sure to modify your profile to receive emails to your preferred address. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email address is correct.
Attendance:
I expect complete and regular attendance. In part, your participation and professionalism grades depend upon it. In addition, students who miss class without a bona fide (and documentable) reason will lose one percent of their overall grade per each class missed. Bona fide excuses include illness, injury, family emergency, important family events (not including vacation plans), university-sanctioned extra-curricular events, and religious observation (for this a letter in advance suffices). The imperative to study for a killer midterm, or like attempts, will not suffice. It is your responsibility to let me know about events that occur as quickly as possible.

Term Paper:
Your term paper will oblige you to select a concept that has to do with republicanism and/or liberalism and compare the treatment of that concept by two philosophers. Relevant concepts include, but are not restricted to, virtue, liberty, fate, corruption, faith, social contract, natural law, and justice.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is not a game, although many students treat it as such. You cheat, get caught, what’s the worst thing that could happen? A stern talking to? Failing the paper? You can probably keep a straight face during the stern talking to. Heck, maybe you could even squeeze out a tear. And you might have failed anyway, so why not give it a try? Actually, failing the paper is the best thing that could happen, and it is not very likely. Far more likely is that I will fail you for the course. If the case is egregious, or if you extend the “game” to trying actively to deceive me, then the best thing that could happen is that when the Honor Council finds you guilty, you don't get expelled from SMU, but instead only have an HV (honor's violation) on your transcript for three years after you graduate. If you want to play the “game,” please be very clear on what happens when you lose.

Plagiarism is defined by Southern Methodist University according to Alexander Lindley’s (1957,2) definition:

Plagiarism is the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own. Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another.

If you have any questions regarding citation, please see me. While I am not looking for excuses to accuse you of plagiarism, and therefore you need not be worried about honest mistakes, you should be aware that the following excuses will not work:

- “I didn’t know that I had to use quotation marks when I borrowed someone else’s prose.”
- “I used footnotes, I just didn’t use quotation marks.”
- “But I changed every fourth word…”
- “I didn’t realize that I couldn’t turn in the same paper for more than one class.”
- “I didn’t know how to reference internet sources, so I just pretended the words and ideas were my own.”
- “I thought that since you said it in class, that I could take this idea and take credit for it as my own intellectual property.”
Disability Accommodations:
If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4563) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Readings:
The readings from this course will be from the following books (available at the Bookstore) and from online sources. All items accessible through PONI can also be searched and accessed via Google Scholar.

Iseult Honohan, *Civic Republicanism* Routledge, 2002

Section One: Introduction

Week One
August 24  The End of History


Week Two
August 27  America Alone
August 29  Liberty and Community
August 31  Republican Values

•Honohan, Introduction; ch.1.

Week Three
September 5  Platonic Virtue
September 7  Aristotelian Virtue


Week Four
September 10  Roman Virtue
September 12  Fate and the Stoics
September 14  Fate and the Christians

Week Five
September 17  The Renaissance and the Reformation
September 19  Bodin and Sovereignty
September 21  Machiavelli and the Rebirth of Classical Republicanism

• Sullivan, ch.1.

Week Six
September 24  Machiavelli, Corruption and Fate
September 26  Liberal Republicanism
September 28  England and the Political Impact of the Reformation

• Sullivan, Introduction.
• Honohan, ch.2.

Week Seven
October 1  England and the Ideological Impact of the Reformation
October 3  Civil War
October 5  Liberal Humanism: Hobbes

Readings:  •Sullivan, ch.2.
• Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, chs.17-18 (access through www.constitution.org).

Week Eight
October 8  Liberal Humanism: Locke
October 10  Review
October 12  Midterm

Readings:  •John Locke, Second Treatise of Civil Government chs.2;7 (access through www.constitution.org).

Week Nine
October 15  Civic Humanism: Harrington and an Empire of Laws
October 17  The Term Paper: Expectations and Strategies
October 19  Court and Country

Readings:  •Locke, chs.8;9.
• Sullivan, ch.4.
Week Ten
October 22  The Material World
October 24  The Evolution of Liberal Republicanism: Trenchard and Gordon
October 26  The Evolution of Liberal Republicanism: Montesquieu

Readings:
• Honahan, ch.6.
• Sullivan, ch.7.
• John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon, Cato's Letters no.31 (access through oll.libertyfund.org).

Week Eleven
October 29  The American Republic: Structure
October 31  The American Republic: Faction
November 2  Fractured Liberal Republicanism

Readings:
• Honohan, ch.5.
• Trenchard and Gordon, no.33.
• James Madison, The Federalist Papers nos.10;51 (access through www.foundingfathers.info).

Week Twelve
November 5  Neo-Classical Liberal Republicanism: America’s God
November 7  Neo-Classical Liberal Republicanism: It’s Not My Fault You’re Poor
November 9

Readings:

Week Thirteen
November 12  Egalitarian Liberal Republicanism, Redistribution and the Rule of Law
November 14  Egalitarian Liberal Republicanism and the Welfare State
November 16  Egalitarian Liberal Republicanism: Rawls and Justice

Readings:

Week Fourteen
November 26  Cognitive Liberal Republicanism: The Politics of Recognition
November 28  Cognitive Liberal Republicanism: Multiculturalism
November 30  Slouching Towards Gomorrah?

Readings:
• Honahan, chs.4;7.
Week Fifteen
December 3  Virtue, Liberty and Justice – A Tough Act to Balance
December 5  America (Still) Alone
December 6  Review