

Rousseau and Nietzsche
Spring 2011
GOV 335M, unique 38875
CTI 335, unique 34187
EUS 347, unique 36600

Lorraine Pangle, Professor of Government
Office: MEZ 3.134 (phone: 232-1447)
Office Hours: W 1-4
lorrainepangle@austin.utexas.edu

Loren Rotner, TA
Office: BAT 1.118
Office Hours: T Th 3:30-5
rotnerl@gmail.com

Class: T Th 11-12:30 WAG 420

Course Description

This course will study Rousseau's *First and Second Discourses* and *Emile*, followed by selections from Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals* and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Our aim will be to understand both thinkers' concepts of human nature, their radical and comprehensive critiques of the Enlightenment and the modern bourgeois society that it produced, and their contrasting projects or hopes to transform society and politics so as to better support human excellence and flourishing. Major themes will be the malleability of human nature and its relation to history, the character of freedom, and the problematic relationship between philosophy and society. Special attention will be given to Rousseau's and Nietzsche's contrasting assessments of compassion, equality, democracy, and the Christian faith. Throughout the course, we will reflect on the impact that the revolutionary teachings of these philosophers have had on the political world in which we live.

Some previous study of political philosophy is strongly recommended.

Required Textbooks (available at the University Co-op)

Rousseau, *The First and Second Discourses*, trans. and ed. Roger Masters (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1964), ISBN 0312694407.
Rousseau, *Emile*, ed. Bloom (New York: Basic Books, 1979), ISBN 0465019315.
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo* (New York: Vintage, 1898), ISBN 9780679724629.
Nietzsche, *The Portable Nietzsche*, trans. and ed. Walter Kaufmann (New York: Penguin Books, 1982), ISBN 978-0-14-015062-9.

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

Jan. 18: Introductory lecture
Jan. 20: Rousseau, *First Discourse*
Jan. 25: Rousseau, *First Discourse*, cont'd, and *Second Discourse*, dedicatory letter to the Republic of Geneva
Jan. 27, Feb. 1, and Feb. 3: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*
Feb. 8 – March 10 (10 classes): Rousseau, *Emile*
March 22: Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Part 1
March 24 – May 3 (12 classes): Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
May 5: Review

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

attendance, quizzes, and participation	20%
short paper on Rousseau (1200 words), due in class February 24	25%
short paper on Nietzsche (1200 words), due in class April 14	25%
final exam, Thursday, May 12, 2-5 pm, location TBA	30%

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and quizzes on the assigned reading will be given at the beginning of class on random days throughout the term. There will be no penalty for the first three absences, or for absences due to religious holidays for which you have notified me at least 14 days in advance. Your attendance, quiz, and participation mark will fall by one letter grade (10%) for each subsequent absence. Quizzes cannot be made up, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Active participation both in discussion and in office hours will improve your grade.

Papers will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. For advice on writing papers in political philosophy, please go to <https://webspace.utexas.edu/lsp226/lorraine/pangle/advice.html>. For individual help with paper writing, please come to Professor Pangle's or Loren Rotner's office hours any time or visit the Undergraduate Writing Center, info at <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 3% + 2% for each calendar day they are late, unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

Plus and minus grades will be used, as follows: 93-100: A; 90-92: A-; 87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-; 77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-; 60-69: D; below 60: F.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>, 471-6259.

No laptops may be used in class unless required by a student with disabilities.