

History 348/ POSC 348
Spring 2007
Political and Social Thought in the Machine Age
Tuesdays-Thursdays 4:30-5:45

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Office Hours:
To be arranged

"Ideas..." wrote John Maynard Keynes, "when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood.... Practical men, who believe themselves... exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist....The power of vested interests is vastly exaggerated compared with the gradual encroachment of ideas."

Industrialization has been a transatlantic phenomenon that continues to alter the material lives, aspirations, and values of millions of people. From the late eighteenth century through today, technology has come to stand at the heart of concerns about how to deal with questions of production and consumption, of alienation, social reform and control, the deteriorating environment, and technological progress itself. It has been seen as both a panacea and an uncontrollable destructive force. This course explores the responses of philosophers, economic theorists, culture critics, public policy makers and urban planners to changes in western society wrought by industrialization by focusing on their concerns with technological change.

Class lectures and discussions will be based on assigned readings and projects. Topics include: mechanization of nature and society; Enlightenment views on science, technology, and the individual; utopia and dystopia, the idea of progress, built environments, development theories, and technology in a dangerous world.

Course work in this class is intended to accomplish two ends. First, to acquaint you with the ideas of a number of influential writers engaged in shaping modern industrial societies. Second, to engage you in critically examining, discussing and writing about their ideas in the context of the major themes of the course with an eye to their continuing relevance in contemporary society.

Course Work and Grading: The course is centered around critical discussion of the assigned readings and films. To guide and stimulate your thinking about

this material. Students will write 4 ungraded two-page responses to these assignments over the course of the semester. Lectures will provide context and summarize pertinent issues. There will be three short papers (6-7 pages) on subjects to be announced in class, and an oral presentation and 15 page paper on a topic to be arranged with the instructor.

Required texts:

1. Robert Heilbroner

The Worldly Philosophers, 7TH, REVISED ed.,
Simon & Schuster, July 1999, Paperback, 368pp
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Trade Paperbacks
Pub. Date: July 1999
Edition Desc: 7TH REV
ISBN: 068486214X

2. Terence Ball, Richard Dagger

Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader, Fifth Edition
Paperback: 442 pages
Publisher: Longman; 5th edition
ISBN: 0321159756

3. Le Corbusier

The City of tomorrow and its Planning
Price: **\$14.95**
Format: Paperback, 10th ed., 302pp.
ISBN: 0486253325
Publisher: Dover Publications, Incorporated
Pub. Date: April 1987

Other: short selections from online texts or material on course reserve in KSL.

Grading: three short papers	15% ea. X 3	45%
Final Project: presentation		20%
Written paper		20%
Classroom participation		15%

SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Readings are assigned to complement the lecture material and to provide information for class discussions at each class meeting. You are expected to keep up with the assignments.

Jan 11: Introduction to Class. Nature comes down to Earth. The Creation of the Public Sphere

Part I: The Mechanization of the World Picture: society, human beings, nature

The end of the 18th century, saw industriousness move front and center as a prime value in the eyes of a new group of individuals, intellectuals committed to promoting their ideas for building a modern society based on scientifically organized production and consumption. A mechanistic view of the world and of human nature informed their ideas about how historical change happened and could be managed in the future.

Jan. 18 Ideology, Machine Man and French Enlightenment: Turgot, Condorcet, Sketch for an Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind

Readings:

Ball and Dagger, pp. xiii-10

La Mettrie, Machine Man, Beginning through “it is a beautiful soul which dignifies the man endowed with it.” Text beginning “But since all the faculties of the soul depend to such a degree on the proper organization of the brain” to “the faculty of motion, impenetrability, extension, etc.”

<http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/LaMettrie/Machine/>

Heilbroner, pp. 13-41

Condorcet, selection “The Future of the Human Mind”

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/condorcet-progress.html>

Turgot, article “Fairs”, at http://tuna.uchicago.edu/forms_unrest/ENC.query.html (you have to use the Case system)

Jan. 25. Adam Smith

Readings:

Heilbroner, 43-74

Smith: An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations

Introduction and Plan of Work; Book I, through chpt. 3; chpt. 10 to beginning to “The difference between the wages of skilled labour and those of common labour is founded upon this principle.” ; Book V, Part Third, 1st and 2nd paragraphs; Part IV “of the Expense if supporting the Dignity of the Sovereign” and Conclusion to the Chapter. <http://art-bin.com/art/oweal1a.html>

Ball and Dagger, pp. 98-100

Adam Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments

Part IV (On Utility) all; Part VI (On Virtue), Section ii, Chpt. 3, para. 3.4-3.6.

<http://www.adamsmith.org/smith/tms/tms-index.htm>

February 1: The Limits on Progress: Mechanics of Population, and The Utilitarians: Jeremy Bentham, Structuring Humans/Harmonizing Social Relations

Readings:

Heilbroner, pp. 75-104

Malthus, Essay on Population, Chapter 2

<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/malthus/popu.txt>

Gunther Stent, Tragedy of the Commons

<http://dieoff.org/page95.htm>

Bentham, Panopticon, Letter I, II, VI,XXI

<http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm>

Foucault, Panopticism, beginning to “it is in fact a figure of political technology that may and must be detached from any specific use,” and final paragraph.

<http://foucault.info/documents/disciplineAndPunish/foucault.disciplineAndPunish.panOpticism.html>

First short paper due

Part II: Inventing the Future

February 8. The Utopians; Marx

Ball and Dagger, pp. 189-202

Heilbroner, pp. 105-164

Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, selection in Ball and Dagger, pp. 202-214

Marx, selections from Capital: I, 492-508, 544-547, 617 at:

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/cw/volume35/index.htm>

February 15.Theories of Evolution: Bellamy, *Looking Backward and Social Darwinism*,, visiting lecturer

Reading:

Ball and Dagger, pp. 267-276 selection plus web text

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/BELLAMY/toc.html>

Heilbroner, 170-212

Part III Modernity and Modernism:Technosocieties and their problems

February 22 The Invention of Sociology, visiting lecturer

International Expositions and Consumer Society

Readings:

Williams, Dream Worlds, Chapter 1 and Chpt. On Gabriel Tarde

March 1: Second Short Paper due

presentations of second short paper

Mid-term grades March 7

spring break March 7-11

March 15: Urbanism, Urban planning and Systems Theory:

Readings:

TBA: the Musee Social: Henard, Burnham
Corbusier, *City of the Future* (all)

22 Film: *Metropolis*

24: individual meetings to discuss final projects

**March 29: Fascism: Hitler, Mussolini, Spier; Statist economics: Keynes;
Capitalism revived: Schumpeter**

Readings:

Ball and Dagger , 287-326

Heilbroner, pp. 248-287; 288-310c

Schumpeter,

<http://transcriptions.english.ucsb.edu/archive/courses/liu/english25/materials/schumpeter.html>

Third short paper due

March 31: Film: The Matrix

Part IV Post-Modernism

April 5 : Environmentalists: the Greens and Web Ideology

Readings:

Ball and Dagger, pp. 405-440

Berners-Lee, *Weaving the Web* (NY:Harper Collins, 2000) on reserve
pp. xii-38; 91-115

April 12: Development Theory, international finance, invited speaker

Reading to be announced

19 Final Project Presentations

april 25 last day of class

april 26 27 reading days

April 29 Final Papers due in my office by 5:00 p.m.

Final exams April 29-May 5

Final grades due May 7th

Key to web sites

@6. LaMettrie, Julien Offray de, Machine Man(L’homme machine)

<http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/LaMettrie/Machine/>

@7. Encyclopedie—Turgot, article on “Fairs” (“Faires”)[There is a web site for the Encyclopedie which requires an id and pin via CWRU library. I believe once on the Case system you can access it. Pls. Check.]

@8. Adam Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments

<http://www.adamsmith.org/smith/tms/tms-index.htm>

@9. Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, e-book *Netlibrary* via KSL

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html>

or

<http://www.bibliomania.com/2/1/65/112/frameset.html>

@Condorcet, Sketch for a History of the Progress of the Human Mind

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/condorcet-progress.html>

@Bentham, Utilitarianism and Panopticon

<http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm>

@Michel Foucault, Panopticism,

<http://foucault.info/documents/disciplineAndPunish/foucault.disciplineAndPunish.panOpticism.html>

URL:

<http://foucault.info/documents/disciplineAndPunish/foucault.disciplineAndPunish.panOpticism.html>

@Michel Foucault, What is Enlightenment?,

<http://foucault.info/documents/whatIsEnlightenment/foucault.whatIsEnlightenment.en.html>

@Thomas Malthus, Essay on Population

<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/malthus/popu.txt>

or

<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/malthus/malthus.0.html>

@or *Garrett Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons

<http://dieoff.org/page95.htm>

@5. Marx, Communist Manifesto,
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>

@ Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward*, e-book Netlibrary via KSL
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/BELLAMY/toc.html>

or

<http://eserver.org/fiction/bellamy/contents.html>

@Emile Durkheim, readings
<http://durkheim.itgo.com/durkbooks.html>

@Gabriel Tarde
<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.denistouret.net/ideologues/Tarde.html&prev=/search%3Fq%3DGabriel%2BTarde%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D>

@Shumpeter, Creative Destruction
<http://transcriptions.english.ucsb.edu/archive/courses/liu/english25/materials/shumpeter.html>

@Film: The Matrix (video or dvd to borrow)

@Film: Metropolis (video or dvd to borrow)

@film: Le Corbusier, The City (KSL purchase or borrow? On Line?)