

CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
School For Politics & Economics
Department of Politics & Policy

**PP454 Seminar: Contemporary Figures in Political Philosophy—
Hannah Arendt & José Ortega Y Gasset**

Professor Sharon Snowiss

Fall 2011

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Course Schedule : Mondays 1-3 :50 p.m. in Stauffer 106 , CGU

Office Hours: M. 4:15-5:30 p.m.; Thurs. 2:45-4 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description

This course examines key twentieth century philosophical issues by taking an in depth look at the works of Hannah Arendt and José Ortega Y Gasset. Both theorists argue that the "modern world" that emerged in 15th century philosophy and science has ended in the 20th century. They stand as formidable critics of the ideas of modernity and reevaluate our understandings of knowledge, objectivity, reason, history, freedom, power and action. Yet, they both write from an experience and stand point based in the Western, modern tradition. It is almost as if they had one foot in the past and another stepping toward the future—a world which they see dimly and partially. From that perspective they highlight and analyze concepts that have become the basis for revolutionary change in an orientation to nature and philosophy and hence reality as we know it.

Their philosophies are grounded in the crucible of experience and reflection on actual events from the rise of totalitarianism to the splitting of the atom. We will look at momentous events such as these in the context of their lives, their actions and their more reflective observations. The roots of environmentalism, feminist themes, multicultural perspectives, revolution, evil and judgment are all explored in their writings.

Prerequisites: Students are expected to have completed PP 450 or other courses on the History of Political Philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will gain an understanding of major philosophical debates of the first half of the twentieth century.
2. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of H. Arendt's and J. Ortega y Gasset's life

circumstances and philosophies.

3. Students will reflect on the relationship between politics and philosophy.

The required texts are as follows: (available at Huntley Bookstore and/or at Honnold Library Reserve) Additional articles are available on Sakai.

Hannah Arendt,

Rachel Varnhagen
Between Past and Future
On Revolution
The Origins of Totalitarianism
The Life of the Mind
Eichmann in Jerusalem
The Human Condition

José Ortega Y Gasset,

Some Lessons in Metaphysics
The Revolt of the Masses
An Interpretation of Universal History
Historical Reason
What Is Philosophy?
History as a System
Man and People
The Origin of Philosophy
Man and Crisis

Rockwell Gray,

The Imperative of Modernity: An Intellectual Biography of Ortega Y Gasset

Elizabeth Young-Bruhl,

Hannah Arendt, For the Love of the World

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to weekly seminar readings and discussions, students will be asked to write weekly short critiques (1-2 pages) and a major research paper (15 pages) on an issue or topic of their choice.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class must seek permission for an excused absence from the course director or teaching assistant. Unapproved absences or late attendance for three or more classes may result in a lower grade or an “incomplete” for the course. If a student has to miss a class, he or she should arrange to get notes from a fellow student and is strongly encouraged to meet with the teaching assistant to obtain the missed material. Missed extra-credit quizzes and papers will not be available for re-taking.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will give you guidance. Exams must be completed independently. Any collaboration on answers to exams, unless expressly permitted, may result in an automatic failing grade and possible expulsion from the Program.

Grading

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Description	Learning Outcome
A	4.0	Complete mastery of course material and additional insight beyond course material	Insightful
B	3.0	Complete mastery of course material	Proficient
C	2.0	Gaps in mastery of the course material; not at level expected by the program	Developing
U	0.0	Unsatisfactory	Ineffective

Important Dates:

Weekly critiques due in class.

Draft of Research Paper due on Dec. 1, 2011

Final Research Paper due on Dec. 12, 2011, 5 p.m.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

- August 29 Introduction.
- September 5 Labor Day, no class

I Personal Identity and Confrontation of Evil in the World

- September 12 E. Young-Bruehl, Hannah Arendt, For the Love of the World, Part I
Hannah Arendt, Rachel Varnhagen
- September 19 Young-Bruehl, Part II
Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, Part I
- September 26 Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, Part II
- October 3 Young-Bruehl, Part III
Arendt, Origins of Totalitarianism, Part III
Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem
- October 10 Rockwell Gray, The Imperative of Modernity, An Intellectual Biography of José Ortega Y Gasset, Intro., chps. 1, 2, 3
José Ortega Y Gasset, Meditations on Quixote (Sakai), _____,
Revolt of the Masses
_____, "In Search of Goethe from Within" in The Dehumanization of Art (Sakai)

II. Human Condition and Circumstance

- October 17 R. Gray, chps. 4, 5
Ortega Y Gasset, Man & Crisis
_____, Man and People
- October 24 Arendt, The Human Condition
_____, Between Past and Future (selections)
Preface, chps. 1, 2, 8

III Freedom, Politics and Power

- October 31 Young-Bruehl, Part IV, chp. 9
Arendt, On Revolution,
“Truth and Politics”, and
“What is Freedom?” in Between Past and Future
- November 7 R. Gray, chps. 6, 7
Ortega Y Gasset, Concord and Liberty (Sakai)
_____, Origin of Philosophy
_____, History as a System
- November 14 Ortega Y Gasset, An Interpretation of Universal History
_____, Historical Reason

IV Thought and Reality

- November 21 R. Gray, chp. 8, Epilogue
Ortega Y Gasset, What is Philosophy?
_____, Some Lessons in Metaphysics
_____, The Modern Theme (Sakai)
- November 28 Young-Bruehl, Part 4, chp. 10
Arendt, The Life of the Mind
- December 1 **Draft of Paper due.**
Email copies to members of class.
- December 5 Presentation and discussion papers
- December 12 Final draft of paper due in Politics and Policy Office by 5 p.m.

Additional works by Arendt and Ortega Y Gasset

A more complete bibliography can be found in their respective biographies.

Hannah Arendt,

Love in St. Augustine

Crises of the Republic

Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy

The Jew as Pariah (letters edited by R. Feldman)

Men in Dark Times

On Violence

(with Karl Jaspers) Correspondence 1926-1969

Between friends, Correspondences of H. Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975

Essays in Understanding, 1930-1954 (uncollected and unpublished works)

Responsibility and Judgement

The Promise of Politics

Letters: H. Arendt & M. Heidegger, 1925-1975

See also the Hannah Arendt papers at the Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/arendthtm/arendthom.html>

José Ortega Y Gasset,

On Love

Velazquez Goya, The Dehumanization of Art and Other Essays

The Idea of Principle in Leibnitz and the Evolution of Deductive Theory

The Modern Theme

Meditations on Quixote

Concord and Liberty

Mission of the University

Invertebrate Spain

Psychological Investigations

The Dehumanization of Art

Meditations on Hunting

Selected secondary sources:

Hannah Arendt:

- Benhabib, Seyla, ed. Politics in Dark Times: Encounters with H. Arendt
Kateb, George, Hannah Arendt Politics Conscience, Evil
Bowen-Moore, Patricia, Hannah Arendt's Philosophy of Natality
Hill, Melvyn (ed.), Hannah Arendt: The Recovery of the Public World
Dossa, Shiraz, The Public Realm and the Public Self ; The Political Theory of H. Arendt
Benhabib, Seyla, The Reluctant Modernism of H. Arendt,
"Judgement and Moral Foundations of Politics in Arendt's Thought," Political Theory, Vol. 16 No. 1, Feb. 1988.
Jacobitti, Suzame, "Hannah Arendt and the Will," Political Theory Vol. 16, No. 1, Feb. 1988
Honig, B., "Arendt Identity and Difference," Political Theory, Vol. 16, No. 1, Feb. 1988
_____, (ed.), Feminist Interpretations of H. Arendt
Dessa, Shiroz "H. Arendt on Eichmann: The Public, the Private and Evil," The Review of Politics, Vo. 46, No. 2, April 1984.
Hinchman, L. and Hinchman, S., "In Heidegger's Shadow: H. Arendt's Phenomenological Humanism," The Review of Politics, Vol. 46, No 2, April 1984.
_____, (eds). H. Arendt, Critical Essays
Social Research, Vol. 44, No. 1, Spring 1977, issue on H. Arendt
Canovan, Margaret, Hannah Arendt A Reinterpretation of Her Political Thought (1992)
Parckeh Blikhu, Hannah Arendt and the Search for a New Political Philosophy
Barnouw, Dagmar, Visible Spaces Hannah Arendt and the German-Jewish Experience
Garner, Reuben, The Realm of Humanitas Responses to the Writings of Hannah Arendt
Pitkin, Hannah, The Attack of the Blob
Villa Dana, Arendt and Heidegger, The Fate of the Political
_____, Politics, Philosophy & Terror, Essays on the Thought of H. Arendt
Isaac, Jeffery, Arendt, Camus, and Modern Rebellion
Gohsegen, M., The Political Thought of H. Arendt
Nye, Andrea, Phdsonhia, the Thought of R. Luxemburg, S. Weil and H. Arendt
Kielmanseggm Mewes, Glasser-Schmidt,(eds.), H. Arendt and Leo Strauss
Disch, Lisa, H. Arendt and the Limits of Philosophy
Bernstein, R., H. Arendt and the Jewish Question
Ring, J, The Political Consequences of Thinking, Gender and Judaism in the Work of H. Arendt
Taminiaux, J., The Thracian Maid and the Professional Thinker Arendt and Heidegger
May and Kohn (eds.), H. Arendt Twenty Years Later
Osiel, Mark, Mass Atrocity, Ordinary Evil and Hannah Arendt
Kristeva, Julia, Hannah Arendt

Aschheim, Steven, H. Arendt in Journalism
Courtine-Denamy, Three Women in Dark Times: Edith Stein, H. Arendt, Simone Weil
Dietz, Mary, Turning Questions: Feminism, Arendt, and Politics

José Ortega Y Gasset:

Silver, Philip, Ortega as Phenomenologist The Genesis of Mediations on Quixote

Cepolecha, Christian, The Historical Thought of José Ortega Y Gasset

Marias, Julian, J. Ortega Y Gasset: Circumstance and Vocation

Mora Jose Ferrater, Ortega Y Gasset, An Outline of His Philosophy

Sanchez, Villasenor, Ortega Y Gasset, Existentialist: A Critical Study of His Thought

Conway, James, "Ortega's Vital Reason," Thought, Vol. 32, Winter 1957-58

Hoover, K.D., "The Political Thought of Ortega Y Gasset," Midwest Journal of Political Science, May 1966, Vol. 10, No 2, p. 232-40.

Livingston, Leon, "Ortega Y Gasset's Philosophy of Art," Publications of the MLA, Vol.. LXVII, (Sept 1952), 609-54.

Maldonado Denis, Manuel, "Ortega Y Gasset and the Theory of the Masses," Western Political Quarterly, 14:676-90, Sept. 1961.

Holmes, Oliver, Human Reality and the Social World, Ortega's Philosophy of History

Symposium: Ortega Y Gasset Centennial, University of New Mexico

Dobson, Andrew, An Introduction to the Politics and Philosophy of José Ortega Y Gasset.