A reconstruction of the history of modern social philosophy understood as a diagnostic of social pathologies. Topics include the theoretical status of social philosophy, its central ways of justification and its main diagnostic topics.

Prerequisite for Undergraduates: one philosophy course

Required texts

Rousseau, “The Discourse” and other early political writings (Cambridge UP)
Rousseau, “The Social Contract” and other later political writings (Cambridge UP)
Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right (Cambridge UP)
The Marx-Engels-Reader, ed. by Tucker (Norton & Company)
Horkheimer/Adorno, Dialectic of Enlightenment (Stanford UP)

Other texts (on reserve in Butler Library):
Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism (Harcourt)
Durkheim, Professional Ethics and Civic Morals (Routledge)
Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1 (Vintage Books)
Habermas, Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. 2, Ch. VIII. (Beacon Press)
Lukács, History and Class Consciousness (MIT)
John Stuart Mill, On Liberty and other writings (Cambridge UP)
Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals (Oxford UP)
Plessner, The Limits of Community (Humanity Books)
Taylor, The Ethics of Authenticity (Harvard UP)
Tönnies, Community and Civil Society (Cambridge UP)
Weber, The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism (Dover)

Course Requirements for Undergraduate Students
-Attendance of all seminar meetings
-One 8-page paper, due Thursday, October 13, 11:00 a.m.
-One 15-page term paper, due Monday, December 12, 5:00 p.m.
  -topic proposal & outline due Monday, November 28, 5:00 p.m.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

1/3 First paper
2/3 Term paper
Schedule of Class Meetings

Sept. 6          Introductory Session  
                 Plan of seminar  
Sept. 8          The idea of Social Philosophy  
                 Diagnosis of Social Pathologies  
Sept. 13         I. Historical Reconstruction: 1. Rousseau  
Sept. 15         2. Rousseau  
Sept. 20         3. Hegel’s Philosophy of Right  
Sept. 22         4. Hegel’s Philosophy of Right  
Sept. 27         Cancelled  
Sept. 29         5. The early Marx  
Oct. 4           6. The late Marx  
Oct. 6           7. John Stuart Mill  
Oct. 11          8. Nietzsche as a social philosopher  
Oct. 13          9. Classical Sociology as social philosophy: Tönnies  
Oct. 18          10. Durkheim  
Oct. 20          11. Weber and Simmel  
Oct. 25          12. Lukács’s critique of reification  
Oct. 27          13. Plessner’s critique of community  
Nov. 1           14. Adorno’s critique of capitalism  
Nov. 3           15. Adorno’s critique of capitalism  
Nov. 8           Break  
Nov. 10          16. Hannah Arendt’s critique of totalitarianism  
Nov. 15          17. Habermas’s critique of colonization  
Nov. 17          18. Foucault’s critique of biopolitics
Nov. 22  
19. Taylor’s critique of narcissism

Nov. 24  
20. Break (Thanksgiving)

Nov. 29  
II. Systematic Outline: 1. Diagnosis of Social Pathologies

Dec. 1  
2. Ways of Justification: philosophy of history, anthropology, ethics

Dec. 6  
3. Continuation

Dec. 8  
4. Topics of Social Philosophy today