This course introduces students to the disciplines that comprise and influence the social sciences (philosophy, anthropology, sociology, sociology of religion, philosophy of history, political theory, classical psychology, etc.). Most of the readings are drawn from the classical works that form the intellectual core of social thought and provide the necessary tools for understanding the social infrastructure of contemporary society. Newer readings demonstrate the current relevance and persistence of questions, as well as providing refutations and critique.

***This is a graduate seminar, which means that learning takes place within the context of class discussion as well as in the process of writing. Therefore students are expected to attend all classes and to hand in papers on time. Absences or late papers will seriously impair the quality of your grade.

**Required Packet of Readings:**
Available at Anaconda Printing, 1820 Lincoln St., 303.534.5525

**Required Books to Purchase:**


**Suggested Secondary Sources:**


Course Outline

8/23 Introduction to Social Thought

I. Raising Questions; Creating Frameworks for Interdisciplinary Studies; Defining Concepts/Terms


9/13 de Waal, pp. 98-119; 161-181. (Other commentary chapters optional.)

II. Classic Writings in Social Thought (19th Century)

9/20 Translator’s Introduction to Hegel’s *Philosophy of History* (Handout distributed in class on 9/13.)


III. Psychology, Philosophy, and Culture: Two More “Masters of Suspicion” (After Marx)


Guest Faculty: (for Nietzsche) Dr. Gabriel Zamosc-Regueros, Department of Philosophy

IV. American Pragmatism


10/18 **Midterm Due; Synthesis**  
Class will meet and students’ informal presentations of their midterm responses will drive our discussion.

**V. Classic Theories of Religion**


**Guest Faculty**: Dr. Sharon Coggan, Director of Religious Studies, Dept. of Philosophy

**VI. Conceptions of Justice and the State**


**Guest Faculty**: (For discussion of his article) Dr. Omar Swartz, Dept. of Communication; Master of Social Science Program


**Question/thesis due for final paper !!**

11/22 **Fall Break**

11/29; 12/6 Synthesis, discussion, student presentations, papers due 12/6
Requirements

**All written assignments must conform to length requirements. Use 11 or 12 pt. font and standard margins.**

1. **Weekly Response**
   A (no longer than) one-page double-spaced response to the readings is required each week. Identify the central problem, issue, or question raised in the assigned article(s). Describe 1 or 2 key concepts. What position does/do the author(s) defend? What arguments are presented? AVOID comments about your views, opinions, beliefs, or feelings about the text or its subject matter. This is not the place to comment on whether you think the author(s) is/are right or wrong. Save that for a longer essay in which you provide an argument and evidence for your position. Here we are interested in the author’s/authors’ points and arguments. (If something strikes you about the argument and its logic, you can include that.)

2. **Midterm**
   We have discussed a number of factors that come into play when asking questions within the disciplines of the human studies:

   > individual consciousness and psychology
   > culture
   > socioeconomic class
   > history
   > “human nature”
   > markets (free vs. state controlled)
   > morality
   > language, thought, and knowledge
   > methods of study

   Select 2-3 of these factors. Specify and provide a general definition of each concept that you have chosen in your first paragraph. What are the controversies and issues surrounding each? Describe the interaction between/among the factors you chose. Integrate at least 5 of the thinkers whom we have read into your discussion, demonstrating their positions on these ideas. Cite specific authors and texts from class readings. Limit your paper to 4 pages, double-spaced. **Due 10/18.** Be prepared to present key aspects of your response to the class as a vehicle for a synthesis discussion.

3. **Final Paper**
   Your final paper will be 6-8 double-spaced pages. On 11/1 I will distribute some key quotations selected from the last several class readings. The connections among democracy, justice, rationality, “critique of rationality,” “critique of ideology,” power, values, and social tradition will be pivotal. After reading the quotations, you should develop a question and/or thesis. You may focus on one quote or draw on any number of them. Make it explicitly clear on the first page of your paper to which quote(s) you are responding. Use at least 5 authors we have read this semester to answer your question and/or defend your thesis. You may cite 1 or 2 outside sources to enhance your discussion or bolster your argument. Limit your response to 6-8 double-spaced pages. Your question/thesis is due on 11/15. Your paper is due on 12/6.

In your final paper, be sure to cite specific references from class materials. Please paginate and do not
use folders or plastic covers. A paper cover sheet is perfect.

**NOTE** The internet can be a valuable resource but proceed with caution. You must evaluate the merit of information accessed by determining the credentials and affiliations of the author and by checking all quotes and references. (Include this information in parentheses after the web citation in your bibliography.) Use the academic style (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) of your choice but be correct and consistent.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly written comments and class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Grading of Weekly Response Papers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Meaning of grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check+</td>
<td>Excellent; innovative; good connections among ideas; well-written; includes ideas from all readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check</td>
<td>Very good; good; satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check (OK)</td>
<td>Acceptable for now but cursory; too brief; lacks depth; and/or poorly or not clearly written</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check-</td>
<td>Unacceptable; should be rewritten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Policies**

- Contact professor in advance concerning absences whenever possible; no make-up work will be assigned for absences; weekly response papers are due the night of class even in the case of unavoidable excused absences.
- Snow policies: when possible, you will be contacted by phone or through Blackboard if class is being cancelled for a major snowstorm or for other significant reason. You can also call 303.556.2401 for weather closures.
- The standard of conduct essential for this class is that of professionalism with a high level of integrity. Be sure to cite any words not your own. Plagiarism means putting forth others' work as your own; plagiarism is not tolerated in this course; the penalty for plagiarism is failing the assignment in which it occurs, with a high probability of failing the entire course.
- Classroom policies: please turn off cell phones; eating during class time is okay; discussion should be professional and courteous at all times toward all persons; confidentiality of personal information obtained during classes should be permanently maintained.
- It is **your responsibility** to have an official cudenver email address. Otherwise you will not receive critical course and university correspondence.
Fall 2011 CLAS Academic Policies
The following policies pertain to all degree students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

- **Schedule verification:** It is each student’s responsibility to verify online that his/her official registration is correct: verify before classes begin and prior to the drop/add deadline. Failure to verify schedule accuracy is not sufficient reason to justify a late add or drop.

- **E-mail:** Students must activate and regularly check their official student e-mail account for CU Denver business: [http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/Pages/WebMail.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/Pages/WebMail.aspx). Those who forward email to a private account are still responsible for checking their official student e-mail account for messages not automatically forwarded.

- **Waitlists:**
  - Students are not automatically notified if they are added to a class from a waitlist. Students are not automatically dropped from a class if they never attended, stopped attending, or do not make tuition payments.
  - Waitlists are purged after the 1st week of classes, after which a paper Schedule Adjustment Form (drop/add form) is required. It is the student's responsibility to get the form (online or at the Advising Office, NC 4002), have it signed, deliver it to the Registrar (Annex 100) or the Student Services Center (NC 1003), and verify her/his schedule online.

- **Late adds** (after 7 September) will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late add are beyond the student’s control. This will require a written petition and verifiable documentation. Petition forms are available in NC 4002. The signature of a faculty member on a Schedule Adjustment Form does not guarantee that a late add petition will be approved.

- **Late drops** (after 14 November) will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late drop have arisen after the published drop deadline and are beyond the student’s control. This will require a written petition and verifiable documentation. The signature of a faculty member does not guarantee that a late drop petition will be approved.

- **Tuition:** Students are responsible for completing arrangements with financial aid, family, scholarships, etc. (depending on tuition plan selected) to pay their tuition prior to Census Date (7 September). Students who drop after that date are (1) financially responsible for tuition and fees, (2) academically responsible and will receive a "W" grade, and (3) are ineligible for a refund of COF hours or tuition.

- **Graduation:**
  - Undergraduate students wishing to graduate in fall 2011 must complete the online Intent to Graduate Form and meet with their academic advisor to obtain a graduation application. This application must be submitted by Census Date (7 September). You can obtain an application only after meeting with your advisor. There are no exceptions to this policy.
  - Graduate students wishing to graduate in fall semester 2011 must complete the online Intent to Graduate form and have a Request for Admissions to Candidacy on file with the CU Denver Graduate School (Lawrence Street Center) no later than 5 PM, September 7, 2011.
Important Dates and Deadlines

- **August 22, 2011**: First day of classes.
- **August 28, 2011**: Last day to add a class or be added to a waitlist using the UCD Access student portal. After this date, you must use a Schedule Adjustment Form to change, add, or drop.
- **August 29, 2011**: LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT DROP CHARGE – THIS INCLUDES SECTION CHANGES.
- **August 29, 2011**: Waitlists are dropped. Any student not added to a course automatically from the waitlist by this date MUST complete a Schedule Adjustment Form to be added. Students are NOT automatically added to the class from the waitlist after this date and time. If your name is not on the official student roster, you are not registered for the course.
- **August 30-September 7, 2011**: Students are responsible for verifying an accurate fall 2011 course schedule via the UCDAccess student portal. Students are NOT notified of their waitlist status by the University. All students must check their schedule prior to 9/7 for accuracy.
- **August 30, 2011**: First day instructor may approve request to add a student to a course with a Schedule Adjustment Form.
- **September 7, 2011**: Census date.
  - **9/7/11, 5 PM**: Last day to add structured courses without a written petition for a late add. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such. This deadline does not apply to independent studies, internships, project hours, thesis hours, dissertation hours, and late-starting modular courses.
  - **9/7/11, 5 PM**: Last day to drop a fall 2011 course or completely withdraw from all fall 2011 courses using a Schedule Adjustment Form and still receive a tuition refund, minus the drop fee. After this date, tuition is forfeited and a "W" will appear on the transcript. This includes section changes. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such.
  - **9/7/11, 5 PM**: Last day to request pass/fail or no-credit option for a course.
  - **9/7/11, 5 PM**: Last day for a graduate student to register for a Candidate for Degree.
  - **9/7/11, 5 PM**: Last day for a Ph.D. student to petition for a reduction in hours.
  - **9/7/11, 5 PM**: Last day to apply for fall 2011 graduation. You must make an appointment and see your academic advisor before this date to apply for graduation if you are an undergraduate; you must complete the Intent to Graduate and Candidate for Degree forms if you are a graduate student.
- **September 19-28, 2011**: Faculty can use the Early Alert system.
- **October 31, 2011, 5 PM**: Last day for non-CLAS students to drop or withdraw without a petition and special approval from the academic dean. After this date, a dean’s signature is required.
- **November 14, 2011, 5 PM**: Last day for CLAS students to drop or withdraw with signatures from the faculty and dean but without a full petition. After this date, all schedule changes require a full petition. Petitions are available in NC 4002 for undergraduates and in the CU Denver Graduate School offices for graduate students.
- **November 21-27, 2011**: Fall break (no classes; campus closed). Be thankful.
- **December 12-17, 2011**: Finals Week. No schedule changes will be granted once finals week has started. There are NO exceptions to this policy.
- **December 27, 2011**: Fall final grades available on UCD Access (tentative).