Course Title: Classics of Modern Political Philosophy  
Course Code: PHI 61  
Instructor: Admir Skodo

Course Summary:

This course will be fairly challenging in terms of the content and amount of readings (up to 100 pages per week), but the reward of putting in the work will be a solid grasp of the major political philosophies in the modern era (late 17th century - 20th century).

We will focus on reading substantial excerpts from major political philosophical works (which will be made available electronically on Canvas). However, for those who wish to gain an overview of modern political thought, the following book is recommended: Iain Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought: From Hobbes to Marx* (Oxford and Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1993).

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements:

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**  
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**  
  - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation. In order to earn credit, the student must attend and actively participate in a minimum of 7 sessions.

- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**  
  - A 6-7 page take-home essay will determine a student’s grade. The topic/questions for the essay will be released two weeks prior to the last session.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions  
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continuingstudies@stanford.edu  
650-725-2650
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Students will prepare for each week’s session by reading and reflecting on the major concepts, principles, and arguments of the assigned text. I will open every week’s session by briefly discussing the significance of the assigned text before moving on to a student-centered discussion, that is, we will be discussing the questions, thoughts, and critiques that you raise in the classroom.

**Week 1: Introduction**

In this introductory session we will discuss some of the defining features of modern political philosophy, which will help us contextualize the readings in a long-term perspective.

**Week 2: Liberalism (John Locke)**


**Week 3: Liberalism (J.S. Mill)**


**Week 4: Liberalism (Isaiah Berlin and Friedrich Hayek)**

**Readings:**


**Week 5: Liberalism (Alexis de Tocqueville)**


**Week 6: Conservatism (Edmund Burke)**

Week 7: Conservatism (Michael Oakeshott)


Week 8: Socialism (Karl Marx)


Week 9: Socialism (Lenin)


Week 10: Socialism (G.D.H. Cole and Michael Walzer)

**Readings**