

General Studies Program
The Colorado College
Spring 2006 - Blocks 5 and 6

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General Studies 101

FREEDOM & AUTHORITY

125 Palmer Hall

BLOCK 6: 20 FEBRUARY – 15 MARCH

Required Texts for Block Six

Voltaire (Francois Marie Arouet), *Candide, or Optimism* (Penguin Classics, 1972)
Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett, 1987)
Isabelle de Charrière, *Letters of Mistress Henley Published by Her Friend* (MLA, 1993)
David Brooks, *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There* (Simon & Schuster, 2001)

Additional E-Reserve Readings (articles and selections, as noted on the calendar section of the syllabus)

Immanuel Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?" (1784), in *Internet Source Book*, ed. Paul Halsall,
<<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kant-what.html>>, (August 1997)
Thomas S. Kuhn, "The Route to Normal Science," "The Nature of Normal Science," and "Anomaly and the Emergence of Scientific Discoveries," *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago, 1996)
_____, "What Are Scientific Revolutions," in *The Probabilistic Revolution, Vol. 1: Ideas in History*, ed. Lorenz Krüger, Lorraine Daston, and Michael Heidelberger (Bradford, MIT Press, 1987)
Malise Ruthven, "Family Resemblances," and "The Scandal of Difference," in *Fundamentalism: The Search for Meaning* (Oxford, 2005)
Jeff Scarlet, "Soldiers of Christ I: Inside America's Most Powerful Megachurch," *Harper's Magazine*, (May 2005), now available at: <<http://harpers.org/SoldiersOfChrist.html>>
Aristotle, "Book I," *The Politics*, trans. T.A. Sinclair (Penguin, 1962)
John Locke, "Of Property" and "Of Political or Civil Society," in *Second Treatise of Government* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1952)
Benjamin Constant, "Liberty of the Ancients Compared with That of the Moderns: Speech Given at the Athénée Royale in Paris," in *Political Writings* (Cambridge, 1988)
Carole Pateman, "Contract, the Individual, and Slavery," in *The Sexual Contract* (Stanford, 1988)
Charles W. Mills, "Introduction" and "Overview," in *The Racial Contract* (Cornell, 1997)
Nancy J. Hirschman, "The Social Construction of Freedom," in *The Subject of Liberty: Toward a Feminist Theory of Freedom* (Princeton, 2003)
Gamson, William A., David Croteau, William Hoynes, and Theodore Sasson, "Media Images and the Social Construction of Reality," *The Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 18 (1992)
Joseph A. Schumpeter, "The Classic Theory of Democracy," "Another Theory of Democracy," and "The Inference," in *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (Harper Torchbooks, 1942, 1975)
Neil Postman, "Media as Epistemology," "The Typographic Mind," and "Now...This," in *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* (Penguin, 1986)
Robert D. Putnam, "The Strange Disappearance of Civic America," in *The American Prospect* 7:24 (1996)
Robert Kagan, "Power and Weakness," *Policy Review*, no. 13, now available at:
<http://www.policyreview.org/JUN02/kagan_print.html>
Benjamin R. Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," in *Atlantic Monthly* 269:3 (March 1992)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, TOPICS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note: All assignments are to be completed *before* class.
Class will meet from 9:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., with a 15-minute break, unless otherwise noted
* Indicates electronic reserve reading.

V. Reason, Science, and Religion: Competing Authorities?

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| Monday, 20 February
Class Meets at Noon
Lunch Served | <u>Enlightenment: Rationalizing Authority and Realizing Freedom?</u>
a. Voltaire, <i>Candide, or Optimism</i> , pp. 19-144.
b. *Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?" pp. 1-8.
RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED |
| Tuesday, 21 February | <u>Reading and Research Day</u>
a. Introduction to Library Research with Krystyna Mrozek (9:30 – 10:45). Meet in the Tutt Library lobby.
b. Begin researching your paper topics, and read Kuhn for Wed. |
| Wednesday, 22 February | <u>How Does Science Work and What Is Scientific Authority?</u>
a. *Kuhn, <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , pp. 10-34, 52-65.
b. *Kuhn, "What Are Scientific Revolutions," pp. 7-22.
<i>Afternoon: meetings to discuss your research projects.</i> |
| Thursday, 23 February
Meet in Manitou Springs
9:30 AM – 2 PM | <u>Précis Presentations</u>
a. Students present their précis, and are assigned to bibliographical research groups.
b. Lunch in Manitou Springs with fall F&A students at 12:30.
<i>Afternoon: Groups meet with Krystyna Mrozek to work on your bibliographies.</i> |
| Friday, 24 February
Leave from Tutt 9:20 AM
Return by 12:30 PM | <u>Approaching the New Fundamentalism</u>
a. Field trip to visit the Focus on the Family Visitor Center.
b. Continue working on your bibliographies. |
| Monday, 27 February | <u>How the New Fundamentalism Works</u>
a. *Ruthven, "Family Resemblances" and "The Scandal of Difference," pp. 1-57.
b. Scarlet, "Soldiers of Christ I," pp. 1-36. |

VI. Modern Society: Basis for Freedom or Its Loss?

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| Tuesday, 28 February | <u>How to Be Autonomous: Classical and Early Modern Contrasts</u>
a. *Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> , Book I, pp. 53-97.
b. *John Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> , chaps. 5&7, pp. 16-30, 44-54.
<i>Afternoon: Groups meet to finish editing bibliographies.</i> |
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Wednesday, 1 March
****Meet at ID House****

Bibliography and Reading Day

- a. Morning: individual meetings with each group, at which each presents their bibliographic work. Meet at ID House.
- b. Read Rousseau.

GROUP ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

Thursday, 2 March

The Critique of Modern Society

- a. Rousseau, *Origins of Inequality*, in *Basic Political Writings*, pp. 25-81.
- b. Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp. 141-87, 192-200, 203-7.

Friday, 3 March

The Promises of Modern Man and Women?

- a. *Benjamin Constant, "Liberty of the Ancients Compared with That of the Moderns," pp. 309-328.
- b. Isabelle de Charrière, *Letters of Mistress Henley*, pp. 3-42.

Monday, 6 March

Questioning Contractual Society

- a. *Carole Pateman, *The Sexual Contract*, pp. 39-76.
 - b. *Charles W. Mills, *The Racial Contract*, pp. 1-40.
- Afternoon: screening of "Control Room"*

VII. Freedom: Perception and Presentation

Tuesday, 7 March

Social Constructivism

- a. *Nancy Hirschman, "The Social Construction of Freedom," pp. 40-74.
- b. *Gamson, et al, "Media Images and the Social Construction of Reality," pp. 373-393.

Wednesday, 8 March

The Technology of What Is Called Modern Democracy

- a. *Schumpeter, "The Classical Theory of Democracy," pp. 250-68.
- b. *Schumpeter, "Another Theory of Democracy" and "The Inference," pp. 269-302.

Thursday, 9 March

Reading and Writing Day

- a. Individual meetings to discuss your papers.
- b. Read ahead!

RESEARCH PAPER DRAFTS DUE BY 5 PM

Friday, 10 March

Television, Civility, Power: The End of Free Thinking?

- a. *Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, pp. 16-29, 44-63, 99-113.
 - b. *Putnam, "The Strange Disappearance of Civic America."
- Afternoon: Group workshop meetings to read drafts.*

- Monday, 13 March U.S.A. Today: Meritocratic Utopia or Narcissistic Sleepwalkers?
 a. Brooks, *Bobos in Paradise*, intro., chaps. 1-3, pp. 9-139.
 b. Brooks, *Bobos*, chaps. 4 (partial), 5-7, pp. 140-150, 189-273.
Afternoon: individual appointments to discuss drafts.
- Tuesday, 14 March Reading and Writing Day
 a. No reading – read ahead for Wednesday.
 b. Individual appointments to discuss your papers.
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE AT 2 PM
- Wednesday, 15 March The New World Disorder/The Promise of Democracy?
 a. *Robert Kagan, “Power and Weakness,” pp. 1-29.
 b. *Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld,” pp. 1-21.
 c. *Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld*, selections TBA.
FINAL 4-PAGE REACTION PAPER DUE

Two-Page Summary and Reaction Statements

Note that the summary and reaction paper assignment from block 5 continues into block 6. During block 5, all students were to write six reaction papers, spread over three periods in the block. If, during block 5, you received less than full credit (a check) for a reaction paper, write extra papers during block 6. We will take your best 12 papers over the term.

During block 6, each student will be required to write an additional six reaction papers. Two should come from each of the following groups:

1. Kuhn, Ruthven, Sharlet, Aristotle, Locke
- 2., Rousseau, Constant, Charrière, Pateman, Mills
3. Hirschman, Gamson, Schumpeter, Postman, Putnam, Brooks

NOTE: STUDENTS CAN WRITE ONLY ONCE ON AN AUTHOR FOR CREDIT.

IN ADDITION, ALL WILL WRITE AN ADDITIONAL 4-PAGE REACTION PAPER ON THE FINAL READINGS (KAGAN AND BARBER), REFLECTING ON THE COURSE AS A WHOLE. BARBER AND KAGAN ARE THEREFORE NOT IN CATEGORY 3 ABOVE.

Other Policies

All other policies listed on the block 5 syllabus will carry over to this block, including the grading policy. Dennis’ office hours will remain the same. Tonja will announce her office hours in class.