

SYLLABUS – PST3127
“Science, Technology & Human Values”
Philosophy of Science & Technology/PST 3127-A (CRN 23547)
Spring 2007, MWF 9-10AM
DM Smith 105

“The Contemporary Enlightenment”

Prof. Hans Klein
School of Public Policy
Room 313, D.M. Smith Building

Email: hans.klein@pubpolicy.gatech.edu
Office hours: M&W 10-11AM and by appointment

PST3217 explores the philosophical theme of enlightenment. Philosophers throughout the ages, from ancient Greece to contemporary times, have maintained that human consciousness suffers from error, be it in our store of formal knowledge, our beliefs and values, or our interests and desires. In this view, we live in a world of “false” consciousness or *illusion*. In the enlightenment view, illusion is not accidental but is created with *intent*, produced and propagated by society’s institutions of education, religion, business, and government. Through *critique* individuals can come to recognize illusion, both as they have internalized it and as it manifests itself in the world around them. In a state of greater enlightenment, individuals may work to reform the illusion-creating systems, thereby attaining a higher degree of *freedom*.

PST3127 is not a class in ethics per se, but addresses core issues in ethics, most notably the presuppositions of ethical behavior. Rather than grounding ethical action on the presupposition of a rational agent acting on the basis of higher principle, such as utility maximization (Mill) or universality (Kant), we consider human rationality to be incomplete but to be capable of development and improvement. We examine cognitive impediments to ethical action (“false consciousness”), various accounts of the origins of such impediments, methods for the critique of consciousness, and visions of freedom. Readings will draw not only on philosophy but also on literature and social science.

Readings

- Texts to Purchase:
 1. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (1932)
 2. *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic* by John de Graaf, et al. (2001)
 3. *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen (1995)
 4. *Manufacturing Consent* by Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky (2002)
- Reserve readings: all other readings are available from the library electronic reserves at www.library.gatech.edu
- *The New York Times*: subscribe to the free on-line edition at www.NYTIMES.com. Have the national & international news summary emailed to you.

Classes

Lectures are given on Mondays and Wednesdays. Fridays are for small-class discussion. *Class attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of class.*

Web site and Email list

Prof. Klein will use the Internet to communicate with students and to distribute materials (including material for quizzes.) You must subscribe to the Email list and know how to access the class web site.

- List name:
PST3127-KLEIN
- To subscribe, send the following message:
TO: SYMPA@LISTS.GATECH.EDU
SUBJECT: SUBSCRIBE PST3127-KLEIN
- The class's web site is here:
<https://lists.gatech.edu/sympa/info/pst3127-klein>
Note the "s" in https! This is a secure server.
- Class lectures (in PowerPoint) can be found in the left column option:
"Shared Web"

In-class Note-taking

Before coming to class, students should print out the PowerPoint lecture notes from the shared web portion of the listserv site described above. In the classroom, students should take additional notes on those hardcopies. Computers should *not* be used in the classroom, as they offer too many distractions.

Assignments and Grading

- There will be 2 papers (7-12pp.) Together, they count equally for 50% of your grade.
- There will be 5 short-answer quizzes. Together, they will count equally for 45% of your grade. If you miss a quiz for an excused absence you can take a makeup quiz during the final exam period. If you miss no quizzes, your lowest quiz is dropped.
- Participation in in-class discussion will count for 5% of your grade.
- Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed, but each additional absence will lower your final grade by 1 point.

Honor Code

Students are expected to do original work in the class. Students must uphold an Honor Code that seeks "to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor (Article II, Section 2)." You must always attribute the thoughts, knowledge, and findings of other scholars when you are using them in your own work. If you have any questions about how this applies in your work, please bring it up with me or in class. For the full text of the Honor Code, please see www.honor.gatech.edu. (This paragraph includes text from a syllabus by Prof. Monica Gaughan.)

Plagiarism: Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source." You should quote and attribute any words that are not your own.

If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. (Students educated outside the US should be especially careful, as cultural differences can be big here. The US rules are significantly stricter than those of some other educational systems and the consequences are also more severe.)

Quizzes and papers are to be completed alone.

Cheating off of another person's test or quiz is unethical and unacceptable. Cheating off of anyone else's work is a direct violation of the GT Academic Honor Code, and will be dealt with accordingly.

"Word" is saved copies of old tests, quizzes, homework, projects, or other coursework from past semesters. Unauthorized use of any previous semester course materials, such as tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and any other coursework, is prohibited in this course. Using these materials will be considered a direct violation of academic policy and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult the instructor or see www.honor.gatech.edu.

READING and LECTURE SCHEDULE

PART I: ILLUSION

WEEK 1: (1/8) Introduction: The Happy Slave

Mon.

- Enlightenment scene from *The Matrix*.

Weds.

- No reading for this class. Review syllabus.

Fri. (meet in DM Smith 105)

- Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky, "Introduction" and "Preface," *Manufacturing Consent* (2002 edition)

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WEEK 2: (1/15) Enlightenment

Mon.

- *No class: Martin Luther King Day*

Weds.

- Plato, "Allegory of the Cave," on reserve or at:
http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_1/plato.html
- Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*, "Forward" (esp. discussion of "The Happy Slave")

Fri. (meet in DM Smith 105)

- Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"
- Leary, Timothy and Richard Alpert, "The Politics of Consciousness Expansion", *The Harvard Review* 1:33-37 (1963).

WEEK 3: (1/22) Conservatism and the Happy Slave

Mon.

- Harries, Owen, "What Conservatism Means," *The American conservative*, 11/27/03
- Allan Bloom, "The Relation Between Thought and Civil Society," [The Enlightenment], *The Closing of the American Mind*, pp. 256-268.

Weds.

- **QUIZ 1**

Fri. (meet in DM Smith 105)

- Huxley, *Brave New World*, through Chapter XI (read chap. III closely.)

WEEK 4: (1/29) Brave New World and the Elitist Response

Mon.

- Huxley, *Brave New World*, to end of book (read chapter XVI closely)

Weds.

- Allan Bloom, Part III through "Tocqueville on Democratic Intellectual Life," *The Closing of the American Mind*, pp. 243-256.

Fri.

- *Discussion sections begin*

WEEK 5 (2/5) Our Brave New World

Mon.

- Guest speaker Gary Yourofsky
- Review his website: www.adaptt.org
- Do a web search on the author and see what comes up.

Weds.

- John de Graaf et al., *Affluenza*, through chap. 9

WEEK 6: (2/12) Our Brave New World

Mon.

- John de Graaf et al., *Affluenza*, through chap. 20

Weds.

- John de Graaf et al., *Affluenza*, to end of book
- **QUIZ 2**

PART II. INTENT

WEEK 7: (2/19) Economic Development and the New Industrial Man

Mon.

- Smith, Adam, “The Division of Labor” in *The Wealth of Nations* (1776).
- Rostow, “The Five Stages-of-Growth” in *The Stages of Economic Growth*

Weds.

- McMath, et al., *Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech 1885-1985*

WEEK 8: (2/26) The Needs of Industry

Mon.

- Ewen, “Intro” and “Mobilizing the Instincts” in *Captains of Consciousness*

Weds.

- Fowles, “Deciphering Advertisements” in *Advertising and Popular Culture*

WEEK 9: (3/5) Government and School

Mon.

- Stauber and Rampton, “The Torturers Lobby” in *Toxic Sludge is Good For You: Lies Damn Lies and the Public Relations Industry*

Weds.

- Sally Reed, *NEA: Propaganda Front of the Radical Left* (selections)
- **QUIZ 3**

PART III: CRITIQUE

WEEK 10 (3/12) Critique of History Textbooks

Mon.

- Loewen, *Lies My Teachers Told Me*, Intro & Chaps. 1 & 2

Weds.

- Loewen, *Lies My Teachers Told Me*, Chap. 9

WEEK 11: (3/19) Spring Break

- *No Class*

WEEK 12: (3/26) Historical Methodology

Mon.

- Loewen, *Lies My Teachers Told Me*, Chaps. 5 & 6

Weds.

- Loewen, *Lies My Teachers Told Me*, Chap. 11

WEEK 13 (4/2) Comparative Case Study Methodology

Mon.

- Re-read “Introduction” and “Preface,”

Weds.

- Herman & Chomsky, Chapter 1, *Manufacturing Consent*

WEEK 14 (4/9) Comparative Case Study Methodology

Mon.

- Herman & Chomsky, Chapter 2

Weds.

- Herman & Chomsky, Chapter 3 and Conclusions
- **QUIZ 4**

PART IV: VISIONS OF FREEDOM

WEEK 15 (4/16) Designing the Good Life

Mon.

- Shi, David, *The Simple Life* (1985), Intro & Chap. 10, “Affluence and Anxiety”

Weds.

- Krugman, Paul, “French Family Values,” *New York Times*, 29 July 2005, p. A21.
- *Time* Europe, “The Fight for Quality of Life” April 22, 2002.
- Koning, Hans, “A French Mirror” *The Atlantic Monthly* (Dec. 1995), 95-106.

WEEK 16: (4/23) Conservatism and Freedom

Mon.

- Friedman, Milton, *Capitalism and Freedom* (selections).

Weds.

- Fukuyama, Francis, *The End of History* (selections).

Friday

- Enlightenment scene from *The Matrix*
- **QUIZ 5** (also offered during exam period.)

Exam Period

- Quiz 5 / Makeup quiz (only for those who need or choose it.)