HISTORICAL TRIPOS
PAPER 20 (Part I)/ PAPER 4 (Part II)

POLITICS
POLITICS 8 (Part IIA) / POLITICS 10 (Part IIB)

HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT
from c.1700 to c.1890

COURSE GUIDE

2018 – 2019

CONVENER:

Dr Chris Meckstroth
(cm753)

To be read with the Reading List available on Moodle
and on the History Faculty website
Why study this paper?
Beginning with the Enlightenment and extending from the American and French revolutions to the wave of revolutions in 1848 and the challenge of capitalism in the thought of Karl Marx, this paper enables you to learn and engage with the fundamental concepts of modern politics. The line between the sacred and the civil, the relation between liberty and commerce, the transformations in the principles of political legitimacy which led to the notion of the modern representative republic, the nineteenth-century rise of the idea of the nation-states and nationalism, the modern concept of empire, the demand for gender equality: all these and more form the content of this paper.

Like Paper 19, this paper offers two kinds of intellectual exploration. In Part A, you will focus on a close reading of major texts within their political and intellectual contexts. This enables you to explore how political argument was articulated in texts by the greatest political philosophers of the period. In Part B, you will focus on groups of texts which are thematically and historically connected, developing your ability to understand the way that a given political language is inflected in different directions according to different demands of national and international debate in the modern period. For those who have done other papers in the history of political thought or are thinking of taking them, this paper provides an essential introduction to the understanding of all aspects of understanding political thought, including the foundations of truly modern politics.

How to study this paper
Lectures: because the material to be covered is diverse and especially challenging for many students who will not have studied the history of political thought before, a comprehensive array of lectures is offered. This need not cause you alarm since you are not required or expected to attend them all. Note that some lectures from other Faculties may be included in this list because the expertise in the history of political thought in Cambridge is shared among several Faculties.

Lecturers are encouraged to place their outlines, bibliographies and other material on the paper’s Moodle site in advance of the lecture. Your id will be added to the list of site users by the Convenor at the start of the academic year, based on information received from the administrative offices of History and POLIS. If you have been omitted, you should contact the convenor.

Supervisions: in your supervisions you will cover seven or eight of the 23 named authors and topics, in preparation for answering three questions in the examination. What you need to do, therefore, is to construct, in conjunction with your supervisor, your own intellectual path through this paper. Before you start, you should make an initial choice of 6 – 8 authors and topics; these will preferably have thematic or historical connections between them. You may change your choice as you proceed; but identification of a pathway is the key to making the most of this paper.

Bibliography (available online and on the Moodle site for the paper): this is the resource which lists all of the authors and topics with specified primary reading and recommended secondary reading. This guide and the Bibliography should be read together, to help you to select the lectures which will be most relevant to your chosen authors and topics, as well as those which will enhance your understanding of their place within the political thought of the period as a whole. The Bibliography is for the guidance of lecturers and supervisors as well as undergraduates: it is not expected that Undergraduates will read everything on the Bibliography for a supervision essay – their choice should be guided by their supervisor. Undergraduates can usefully return to the Bibliography when revising the paper.

The Examination: candidates can expect that a question will be set on each of the prescribed authors in Section A and topics in Section B. But you should be aware that the guarantee of a question on each author and topic does not mean that examiners will set lowest common denominator, generic questions, open to a pre-prepared answer. They are much more likely to ask specific
questions, approaching the author/topic from a particular perspective. Candidates are therefore strongly advised to prepare more than the minimum of required authors and topics.

**Cap:** there is no Faculty cap on numbers taking this paper, in either Part I or Part II. Your ability to take the paper is dependent only on the availability of supervision.
**Examination Rubric**

The rubric for both Part I Paper 20 and Part II Paper 4 will read:  
*Candidates must answer three questions, at least ONE from Section A and at least ONE from Section B.*

### Section A (candidates will be required to answer at least one question)

| A1   | Hume       |
| A2   | Montesquieu|
| A3   | Rousseau   |
| A4   | Smith      |
| A5   | Burke      |
| A6   | Wollstonecraft |
| A7   | Kant       |
| A8   | Bentham    |
| A9   | Constant   |
| A10  | Hegel      |
| A11  | Tocqueville|
| A12  | John Stuart Mill |
| A13  | Marx       |

### Section B (candidates will be required to answer at least one question)

| B14  | Natural law and History |
| B15  | Luxury and Commercial Society |
| B16  | The Political Thought of the American Revolution |
| B17  | The Political Thought of the French Revolution |
| B18  | Culture and Aesthetic Politics in Germany 1770-1810 |
| B19  | Gender and Political Thought in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries |
| B20  | Socialism before 1848 |
| B21  | Nationalism and the State |
| B22  | Empire and Civilisation in Nineteenth-Century Political Thought |
| B23  | Social Science and Political Thought |

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**NB** You are permitted to take more than one paper in the History of Political Thought in Part I of the History Tripos. If you propose to take History Paper 20 (Pol 2), remember that Paper 19 (History of Political Thought to c.1700) (Pol 1) is an excellent complement, and both together provide the most complete foundation for Part II Paper 5 (History of Political Thought since c.1890 and Political Philosophy) and/or Paper 6 (States between states: international political thought from the Roman Empire to the early nineteenth century). Please also remember that Paper 20 can also be taken as a component of your Part II studies, as Part II Paper 4.

Although there are several well-qualified supervisors available, the supply is finite, so you should inform your Director of Studies as soon as possible if you propose to take Paper 20/4.
LECTURES IN 2018-2019 (Provisional: time and place tbc)

Lectures in History Faculty Building unless otherwise indicated:

Michaelmas Term

DR C. MECKSTROTH
German political thought from Kant to Marx: Kant (A7), Culture and Aesthetic Politics (B18), Hegel (A10), Marx (A13). (8 lectures)

DR C. MECKSTROTH
Bentham and Mill. (A8, A12: 4 lectures, weeks 5-8)

MISS S. TOMASELLI
Natural law, sociability, and luxury. (B14, B15: 4 lectures, weeks 1-4)

MISS S. TOMASELLI
Wollstonecraft (A6), Gender and political thought in the 18th and 19th centuries (B19). (4 lectures, weeks 5-8)

DR N. GUYATT
The political worlds of the American Founding, 1781-1790 (B16: 4 lectures, weeks 5-8)

Lent Term

PROF. R. BOURKE
Hume and Smith. (A1, A4: 4 lectures, weeks 1-4)

PROF. R. BOURKE
Montesquieu and Rousseau (A2, A3: 4 lectures, weeks 5-8)

PROF. R. BOURKE
Burke. (A5: 2 lectures, weeks 3-4)

DR T. HOPKINS
French political thought from the Revolution to Tocqueville: Political Thought of the French Revolution (B17), Constant (A9), Socialism Before 1848 (B20), Tocqueville (A11). (8 lectures)

DR R. SCURR
Social science and political thought. (B23: 2 lectures, weeks 1-2)

DR D. BELL
Nationalism and the state, Empire and civilisation (B21, B22: 4 lectures, weeks 5-8)

Easter Term

PROF R. BOURKE
Topics in eighteenth-century political thought. (weeks 1-2)

DR C. MECKSTROTH
Topics in nineteenth-century political thought. (weeks 1-2)