Objective:
The objective of this course is twofold. First, through a careful reading of several important works (Kant and Smith) we will endeavor to discover the philosophical origins of political economy. That is, we will set out to find not the beginnings of political economy as a process of policy making, but rather to uncover the theoretical motives and problems that give rise to political economy as a way of thinking in general.

Our second objective is to explore a series of powerful critiques from theoretical quarters and vantages. In so considering these texts, we shall endeavor not only to discover how they address the optimism of modern thought, but also to explore the applicability of their arguments at the dawn of the 21st century. Students are encouraged to keep these two objectives in mind in the seminar discussions and in their written work.

Required Texts (all):

Students are required to purchase these translations/editions. This is a text-based course and full participation requires that we navigate and explore the text together—that we be on the same
Students must bring the text under consideration to class. No text, no participation grade.

**Requirements:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grading Schema</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>94 % + A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>88-93 A/B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Papers (3)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>83-87 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>78-82 B/C</td>
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<td>73-77 C</td>
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**Grading Schema:**

Participation: The course is a seminar. Effectiveness thus depends on two things: reading and participation. The grading schema is therefore designed to encourage both. The participation is based on attendance, preparedness, and participation in discussion. Carefully reading the assigned material before each class will go far in ensuring a good participation grade.

Presentations: Students will be responsible for three presentations in groups (4 or 5 students per week). On the students’ assigned day for presentation they will serve as our resident hermeneuts. That is, the students will become our experts on the text or film. The task is not to talk for the whole class, but rather to facilitate the discussion, to present what are perceived to be the major themes and statements in the text, and to be the experts guiding us in our interpretation and discussion.

Papers: Papers (4-6pp) will be due in class the week after the student’s presentation (3 papers total). The topic is open, but the paper will focus on the themes from the readings as discussed in the seminar. A term paper (9-11 pp) is due on December 21; topics will emerge during the semester as students discover issues of particular interest. All term paper topics should be approved in consultation with me. Late papers will be penalized a half letter grade per day.

Itinerary:

- **Tuesday, September 4:** Introduction, Lenz, *A Grand Day in Schissomir*

- **September 11:** Kant, “What is Enlightenment,” & “Idea for a Universal History” (pp. 3-26); “Perpetual Peace” (pp. 85-136) & “Is the Human Race Constantly Progressing” (pp. 137-54).

- **September 18:** Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, Introduction (pp. 10-12), Bk. I, Chs. I-IX (pp. 13-115).

- **September 25:** Smith, Bk. I, Ch. XI (Conclusion), pp. 264-67; Bk. IV, Introduction, Chs. I, II (pp. 429-72), Bk. V, Ch. I, Article II, III (pp. 723, 758-816).

- **October 2:** Hirschmann, *The Passions and the Interests*

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1 Noun: a course conducted in the manner of a seminar for graduate students and advanced undergraduates.
October 9: Weber, *The Spirit of Capitalism and the Protestant Ethic*


October 23: *Rerum novarum* of 1891; Pius XII’s *Quadragesimo Anno*; Belloc, *The Servile State.*

October 30: Josiah Warren, Manifesto etc.

November 6: Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, (Chpts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 16)

November 13: Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty* (Chpts 2, 3, 4, 5)

November 20: Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (selections)


December 4: Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful* (selections)

December 11: Cowen, *In Praise of Commercial Culture*


December 21: Final Paper due