

JURISPRUDENCE READINGS SEMINAR
Law 622
Spring 2009

CLASS INFORMATION AND TENTATIVE SYLLABUS
(November 8, 2008)

- Instructor:** Nelson Lund
(703) 993-8045
- Office Hours:** Room 433-I, by appointment
- Required Texts:** Rousseau, *The Discourses and other early political writings*, ed. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997)
- Jean Jacques Rousseau Political Writings, Containing the Social Contract, Considerations on the Government of Poland, and Constitutional Project for Corsica*, ed. Frederick Watkins, trans. Patrick Riley (Univ. of Wisconsin, 1986)
- Rousseau, Politics and the Arts: Letter to M. D'Alembert on the Theatre*, trans. Allan Bloom (Cornell Univ. Press, 1968)
- Recommended:** *The Politics of Aristotle*, trans. Peter L. Phillips Simpson (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1997)
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Michael Oakeshott (Touchstone Books, 1997)
- John Locke, *The Second Treatise on Civil Government* (Prometheus Books, 1986)
- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, eds. Anne M. Cohler, Basia Carolyn Miller, Harold Samuel Stone (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989)
- Assignments:** Regular attendance and class preparation are mandatory.
- It may be helpful for you to finish the readings for the first two classes during the winter break (i.e. before the first class), partly to facilitate the discussion in the first class and partly because the

assignment for the second class is lengthy.

For Hobbes and Locke, any edition will do.

For Aristotle and Montesquieu, I recommend the translations by Simpson (Aristotle) and Cohler, Miller & Stone (Montesquieu), both of which should be in the bookstore. But you may use different translations if you prefer.

For the Rousseau readings, we should all use the same English editions.

The last three weeks will be reserved for student presentations of draft seminar papers. Nobody will be required to make a presentation, but attendance by all students will be required for each presentation.

Evaluation: The grade will be based primarily on the seminar paper. Final grades may be raised or lowered to reflect the quality of class participation.

Academic Regulation 4 has strict and specific rules about attendance, which I do not have the authority to waive (see <http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/regulations#Anchor62>). If you have questions or concerns about these rules, please contact the director of student academic affairs.

Assignments

Week 1 Aristotle

Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I, III [1252a1-1260a24, 1274b32-1288b6]

Week 2 Hobbes, Locke, and Montesquieu

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chaps. 13-15, 17-18

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chaps. II-V, VII-IX

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Books 1-3; Book 11, chaps. 1-7; Book 12, chaps. 1-4; Book 19, chaps. 1-4, 27; Book 20

- Week 3** **Discourse on the Sciences and Arts**
Discourse on the Sciences and Arts (Gourevitch ed.), pp. 2-28
- Week 4** **Discourse on Inequality**
Discourse on Inequality through Part I, (Gourevitch ed.), pp. 112-60, 189-218
- Week 5** **Discourse on Inequality**
Discourse on Inequality (Gourevitch ed.), pp. 112-222
- Week 6** **Origin of Languages**
Essay on the Origin of Languages (Gourevitch ed.), pp. 247-99
- Week 7** **Discourse on Inequality**
Discourse on Inequality (Gourevitch ed.), pp. 112-222
- Week 8** **Social Contract**
Social Contract, Books I-II (Watkins, ed.), pp. 1-58
- Week 9** **Social Contract**
Social Contract (Watkins, ed.), pp. 1-155
- Week 10** **Government of Poland**
Considerations on the Government of Poland (Frederick Watkins ed.), pp. 157-274
- Week 11** **Letter to D'Alembert**
Letter to M. D'Alembert on the Theatre (Bloom trans.)

Weeks 12-14 Student Presentations