

HUMANISTIC ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

- - - Socrates to Burke - - -

Syllabus

- Instructor: Dr. Edward L. Henry
- Office: Founders Hall Annex. Walk in or make appointment with secretary.
- Purpose of Course: To trace the impact of Natural Law (Right) on Western Political Thought, Socrates to Edmund Burke, and on the Humanization of man.
- Requirements:
- 1) Readings as assigned on the syllabus. These readings will be supplemented from time to time with reprints bearing on special points in the course.
 - 2) Several short papers will be assigned during the course.
 - 3) Panels and/or reports as assigned.
 - 4) Exams as assigned: midterm and final.
- Class Meetings: 10:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Occasionally the class period with the concurrence of the class will be shifted to accommodate Dr. Henry's duties off campus.
- Class Room: 52 Jemery Hall
- Texts:
- 1) Ebenstein, Wm, Great Political Thinkers (Rinehart & Co., 1969)
 - 2) Straus, Leo, Natural Right and History, (U of Chicago Press, 1953)
 - 3) Baker, Herschel, The Image of Man (Peter Smith, Gloucester, Mass. 1975)
- (Students may wish to share texts since assignments will not cover the entire text. Each of these books deserves a spot in your library, however. You will find Baker's book a keepsake. Likewise, Ebenstein can be used as a reference on the history of political thinkers up to modern times. Straus has a special thesis and is more specialized, but very provocative.)

- Reference Shelf:
- 1) Baker, Herschel, The Image of Man
 - 2) Barker, Ernest, The Politics of Aristotle (JC 71.A41 B3)
 - 3) Cornford, Francis, Republic of Plato (JC 71.P35)
 - 4) Corwin, Edward S., Higher Law Background of American Constitutional Law (JK 371.C8)
 - 5) Ebenstein, Wm, Great Political Thinkers (JA 36.E25)
 - 6) Elliott & McDonald, Western Political Heritage (JA 37.E4)
 - 7) D'Entreves, A.P., Natural Law (K 25.P38)
 - 8) Foster, Michael, Masters of Political Thought, Vol. I (JA 81.M34)
 - 9) Hallowell, John, Moral Foundations of Democracy (JC 423.H315)
 - 10) Jones, W.T., Masters of Political Thought (JA 81.M34)
 - 11) Lippman, Walter, The Public Philosophy (
 - 12) Murray, John C., We Hold These Truths (BR 516. M84 C.1)
 - 13) Neill, Thomas, Rise and Decline of Liberalism (HM 276N35)
 - 14) Parsons, Wilfred, Which Way Democracy (JC 423.P26)
 - 15) Potter, David, People of Plenty (E169.1 P6)
 - 16) Sabine, George, A History of Political Thought (JA 81.53)
 - 17) Stanlis, Peter, Edmund Burke and the Natural Law (BJ 1239.S67)
 - 18) Rommen, Henry, Natural Law (JC 571.R65)
 - 19) Strauss, Leo, Natural Right and History (JC 571.S9)
 - 20) Wild, John, Plato's Modern Enemies and the Theory of Natural Law (B 398.E8W5)
 - 21) Wu, John, Fountain of Justice (BJ 55.W8)
 - 22) Levinson, J., In Defense of Plato (HM 261.L75: 1965)
 - 23) McIlwain, Charles, The Growth of Political Thought in the West
 - 24) Ryan and Miller, The State and the Church

Humanistic Aspects of the History of Western Political Thought

Socrates to Burke

I. The Problem of Establishing Objective Standards (2 periods)

A. The Beginnings

Baker, Ch. 2 "Ethical Absolutes" 16-36
Strauss, Introduction 1-8; 9-14; 74-75; 24-25
Strauss, Ch. 2 "Origin of the Idea of Natural Right" 81-92
Elliott and McDonald, Introduction 3-15

B. What is "Natural Law?" "Natural Right?"

Corwin, Higher Law Background, 4
Wild, 64; 132-133; 137
D'Entreves, Natural Law, Introduction, 7-15
Hallowell, Moral Foundations, 74; 77-78; 83; 114-116; 119; fn. 124

C. Significance of Natural Law (or natural right) to Western Civilization

Foster, Masters of Political Thought, 11-15
Lippman, The Public Philosophy, 101-2; 92-94
Hallowell, Moral Foundations, 118-119; 113
Stanlis, Ch. 1

D. Eclipse of Natural Law

Lippman, 110; 102
Strauss, 7
Hallowell, 76-78
Wilde, 13
Hillenbrand, Power and Morals, 74

E. Implications of the Decline of Natural Law (right)

Lippman, 111-112; Hillenbrand 19; 13; 198-199
Foster, Introduction
Time Magazine (December 12, 1960) 64

II. Greek Political Ideals. The City States. Historical Influence (1 period)

Sabine, 3-19
Elliott & McDonald, "Political Life in the Greek City State" 63-76
or
McIlwain, "The Beginnings" 1-22
Optional: Rommen, Natural Law, 2-34
Strauss, 83-85; 93; 94-95
"Greek City State" Encyclopedia of Social Sciences

III. Greek Classical Thought in Humanistic Development (5 periods)

A. Platonic Humanism

Baker, Ch. 3 "Platonic Humanism" 37-52

McIlwain, 23-49

Optional: Cornford, The Republic of Plato, Introduction 15-29

Sabine, 35-66

Levinson, 573-579

Strauss, 26; 27

Wilde, 9-39; 40-63

Wilde, "Did Plato Believe in God?" New Scholasticism (Oct. 1956)

Please know the following terms: "teleological," "nature," "essence,"
"form," "accident," "end," "epistemology," "metaphysics."

B. Platonic Political Thought

Ebenstein, textual extracts on Plato

(Question: Is Plato a "constitutionalist" or a "totalitarian"?)

C. Aristotelian Humanism

Barker, Preface, Parts II & III, xlvii-lxxvi

(note Aristotle's practical experience as a researcher)

Baker, 53-68

McIlwain or Sabine on "Aristotle"

Optional: Wilde, "The Aristotelian Theory of Natural Law" 157-177

D. Aristotle's Political Theory

Elliott and McDonald, "From Ethics to Politics" 190-197

Ebenstein, Excerpts from "Aristotle"

IV. The Roman Contribution to Humanism (1 period)

Ebenstein, Ch. 4 "Cicero"

Elliott and McDonald, Ch. 5 "Heritage of Roman Law" 234-256

Optional: McIlwain (check index citations for "Roman Law")

Sabine (ditto) 141-173

D'Entreves (on Roman Law)

V. Classical Natural Right and Humanism: A Summary (1 period)

Strauss, Ch. "Classic Natural Right" 120-164, esp.

VI. Christianity and Humanism (3 periods)

Baker, Ch. 6, 84-99; Ch. 7, 100-105

McIlwain, Ch. 5 "The Early Middle Ages"

Elliott & McDonald, Ch. 7 "Government in the Middle Ages" 319-332

VI. Christianity and Humanism (continued)

A. Augustine (354-430)

Baker, Ch. 9 "Frame of Reference" 132-141
Ch. 11 "Augustine and Medieval View of Man" 159-186
Ebenstein, Ch. 6 "St. Augustine"

B. Thomas Aquinas (1226-1274): The Natural Theology of Aquinas

Baker, 194-200
Ebenstein, Ch. 8 "St. Thomas Aquinas"
Wilde, 114-116
Strauss, 163-164
Optional: McIlwain, 323-338
Sabine, 244-257

VII. Renaissance Humanism: Continuity or Break? (1 period)

Baker, Ch. 13, 203-222
Ch. 14, 223-240

VIII. Naturalism and Humanism: Machiavelli (1469-1527) (1 period)

Ebenstein, 286-297
Strauss, 177-180; 161-162
Elliott & McDonald, 417-429; 479-487
N.B. - Read the Discourses in Elliott. Ebenstein unaccountably
does not include them

IX. Impact of Protestantism on Humanism and Political Thought (2 periods)

Baker, Ch. 19 "Protestant View of Man" 313-333
Ebenstein, Ch. 12 298-303
Optional: Sabine, "Protestant Revolt," esp. 361; 363; 366
Natural Law Forum IV, (1959) 146ff
Ibid, (1956) 91ff
Hayes, Political and Cultural History of Europe, "Political
Effects of the Protestant Reformation"

A. Luther (1483-1546)

Ebenstein in Ch. 12

B. Calvin (1509-1564)

Ebenstein in Ch. 12

- X. The Social Contract School: Modern Natural Right (2 periods)
- A. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
- Reprint
Ebenstein, On Hobbes 362-389
Wilde, 122-127
Strauss, esp. 165-66; 181-82; 187-89; 200-201
Optional: Stanlis, 16-27
Elliott & McDonald, 429-447
Sabine, 455-476
- B. John Locke (1632-1704) (2 periods)
- Ebenstein, on Locke
Wilde, 127-132
Strauss, esp. 220-250
Sabine, 523; 529; 540
Harbison & Kelly, The American Constitution (see "Locke" in the index for references to Locke's influence on the American political and legal system.)
- C. Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) (2 periods)
- Ebenstein, on Rousseau
Elliott, 617; 631
American Political Science Review, "Cultural Prerequisites for a Successfully Functioning Democracy" (March, 1956)
Ibid, (Dec. 1957) Book Review, 101-117
Strauss, 252-294
- XI. Environmental Determinism & Natural Right: Montesquieu (1689-1755)
- Ebensen, on Montesquieu (1 period)
Potter, People of Plenty 21-22; 112
Jones, Masters of Political Thought, esp. 218; 229
- XII. Natural Law as Political Appeal: Edmund Burke (1729-1797)
- Ebenstein, on Burke (1 period)
Hallowell, Main Currents, 183-197
Strauss, 294-296; 303-311
Sabine, 607-619
Optional: Stanlis, Edmund Burke and the Natural Law (skim)