Class code: SFII-UF 9102.085

Instructor Details:
Dr Marie Milofsky
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Class Details:
Social Foundations II – Spring 2013
Thursday 10.00am – 1.00pm
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites:
None

Class Description:
This course introduces students to some of the classic works from Aquinas to Locke via Las Casas, Luther or Machiavelli. We will discuss the Copernican revolution, the issues of faith and science or the social contract tradition and through these debates we will consider some of the great ideas that have helped peoples organise their ethical, social and political lives in various parts of the world.

Desired Outcomes:
Obviously the number one purpose of the course is for the students to enjoy engaging with these texts and learn from them how to think about the world around them. From a more technical point of view, the purpose is three folds. Firstly, by the end of the semester, the students should have learnt how to read these texts. Secondly, they should be able to identify forms of arguments and to understand their appeal and difficulties. Last but not least, they should know how to write an essay, develop an argument, review and discuss objections to their views.

Assessment Components:
- 25% first essay 1,500 words. Topics given in session 3 for submission in session 5
- 25% Project2,500 words. Topics given in session 9 for submission in session 12
- 25% Participation.
- 25% Final exam.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations:
Grade A: Excellent work. The essay is focused on the question asked, well structured and well written. The argument unfolds with clarity using the appropriate literature and reviewing objections to the view defended. The student must display a clear and thorough understanding of the course material, an ability to think independently and some sophistication in the argument.

Grade B: Good to very good work. The essay is clear, well written, well organised and well argued but lacks the sophistication and independence of an ‘A’ essay. A ‘B’ can also be given to an original essay defending a well thought argument if it lacks clarity or structure. A disguised repeat of the lecture is strongly discouraged.

Grade C: Adequate work. The essay displays either poor writing skills, an unclear structure or some misunderstandings about the texts. A ‘C’ can also be given to a student who gives an opinion more than
develop an argument or who misuses the course material. A ‘C’ can sometimes penalise a student who
developed a well written argument but misunderstood the question and provided an answer out of focus.

**Grade D:** Poor work. The course material is poorly understood, explained or used. The essay is badly
written or organised. The student still displays some effort or a willingness to try but encounters genuine
difficulties. A student having a ‘D’ should seek help with essay writing skills and possibly re-write the
essay.

**Grade F:** Fail. No redeeming features.

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**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point
of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be
used).

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**Grading Policy**

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail
at Washington Square.

In addition, Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:

- There should be no more than
  - 25-35% A’s - awarded for excellent work
  - 50-70% B’s - awarded for good or very good work
  - 5-15% C’s or below - awarded for adequate or below work

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that-it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of
grades towards which we work.

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**Attendance Policy**

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While
students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach
them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill—
health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester. See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrollment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

**Required Texts**


**Internet Research Guidelines**

Internet resources should be treated with care. The only reliable and free resource is the Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy. The use of electronic version of scholarly journals is recommended. A search on the Bobst Library E-resources or on the research portal of University of London library is usually more efficient and more reliable than a mere research on Google.

None

**Session 1**

**General introduction.**

**Faith and reason (1) Averroes**

31/01/2013

During this session I will introduce the course before moving on to our first topic on Faith and Reason in general and Averroes in particular.

**Further reading:**


http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=UB0Tao4oiEC&printsec=frontcover&dq=god+and+reason+in+the+middle+ages&source=bl&ots=u7AUrf83z4&sig=Kzk249Ujuw_NUvUTPqrnGIITk&hl=en&ei=5v8rTdQ13JKEB_G79JQI&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqi=2&ved=0CBkQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false


**Session 2**

**Faith and reason (2) Averroes**

07/02/2013

In this session, we will review some illustration of how Averroes applies the demonstrative reasoning to faith postulates. We will also describe the impact of Averroes on the Latin West.

**Required reading:**

Najjar Ibrahim, (2002) *Faith and Reason in Islam: Averroes' Exposition of Religious Arguments* (Great Islamic Writings), Oneworld publications. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 I, 5III and 5IV

**Further reading:**


Stanford Encyclopedia of philosophy, ‘the influence of Arabic and Islamic philosophy on the Latin West’ entry.

**Session 3**

**Faith and Reason (3) Aquinas**

14/02/2013

This last week on Faith and Reason will be dedicated to Aquinas.
Session 4  
Renaissance and Reformation (1): Machiavelli  
21/02/2013  
Required reading:  
Further reading:  
http://www.idehist uu.se/distans/ilmh/Ren/flor-mach-baron.htm  
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on ‘Niccolo Machiavelli’.  
Topics for the first essay will be posted on Albert.

Session 5  
Renaissance and Reformation(2): Luther  
28/02/2013  
Required reading:  
Further reading:  

Session 6  
Scientific Revolution (1): Copernican revolution  
07/03/2013  
This topic on scientific revolution is fascinating. We will see how Copernicus discovery on the heliocentric nature of our universe after millenniums belief in a geocentric nature has had important consequences in the social foundations of Western beliefs.  
Required reading:  
Kuhn T (1957), *The Copernican Revolution*, Harvard University Press. Chapters 1, 2 and 3.  
Further reading:  
To read the entire book.  
First essay to be handed in class.

Session 7  
Scientific Revolutions (2): Copernican revolution
14/03/2013  Required reading:

Further reading:
To read the entire book.

First essay will be handed back in class in one-to-one discussion with each student. We will also talk about participation progress during this discussion.

**Session 8**

**Scientific Revolutions (3): Life of Galileo**

21/03/2013  Required reading:

Further reading:
To read the entire book.

**Session 9**

**Modern era (1): Descartes**

11/04/2013  Required reading:

Further reading:

Topics for the project will be posted on Albert

**Session 10**

**Modern era (2): Locke**

18/04/2013  Required reading:

*I strongly recommend to read the introduction and in particular chapter V of the introduction.*

Further reading:

**Session 11**

**South America (1): Las Casas**

25/04/2013  Required reading:

Further reading:

**Session 12**

**South America (2): Garcilosa De La Vega**

02/05/2013  Required reading:
[Paperback], ed Karen Spalding, translated by Harold Livermore.
Part I chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7, Part II chapters 1, 4 and 5.

Further reading:
The entire book

Projects to be handed in class

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**Classroom Etiquette**

- Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.
- Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.
- Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.
- Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

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**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

TBC

Your Instructor