Class Description:
This course focuses upon Western modernity; it will follow its development between the end of the 18 and the mid 20th century. Students will be asked to reflect critically on topics such as

- capitalism
- colonialism
- gender
- democracy
- totalitarianism
- nation State
- liberalism
- social justice

Instructor Details:
Name: Debora Spini
NYUGlobal Home Email Address: ds80@nyu.edu – deb.spinimail.com
Office Hours: TTh 12 to 1
Villa Ulivi Office Location: N/A
Villa Ulivi Phone Number:+39 055 5007 300

Desired Outcomes:
- Have improved their ability to think critically
- Engage in complex reasoning
- Express their thoughts clearly through their written work
- Have mastered a basic understanding of how to research questions in Social Foundations
- Have improved their understanding of the methodologies of history of political thought
- Recognize works by the principal protagonists of this course
- Understand why they are significant for political thought
Assessment Components

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Written Assignments (two 3 page reaction papers): 20%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Oral Presentation of 10 minute length: 15%
- Final Exam: 25%
- [This last line must be included on all syllabi “Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.”]

Assessment Expectations:

- **Grade A:** The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

- **Grade B:** The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

- **Grade C:** The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement.

- **Grade D:** The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the follow areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

- **Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

Grading Guidelines

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 94-100 \\
A \text{ minus} &= 90-93 \\
B \text{ plus} &= 87-89 \\
B &= 84-86
\end{align*}
\]
Grading Policy:
Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work

Academic Accommodations:
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see the Moses Center for further information.

Attendance Policy:
Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to the number of class times over a single week.

Excused Absences:
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student. The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:
**Absence Due to Illness**

- If you are sick, please see a doctor. Contact the Office of Student Life for assistance.
- For absences that last for **two or more consecutive days**, a **doctor’s certificate**, "certificato medico" is required. The doctor will indicate in writing the number of days of bed rest required. Please note **these certificates can only be obtained on the day you see the doctor** and cannot be written for you afterwards.
- Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported **WITHIN 48 HRS** of your return to class via the online [NYU Florence Absence Form](#).
- OAS will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness.
- OAS will only notify faculty of absences **REPORTED on the ABSENCE FORM**.
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences.

**Due to Religious Observance**

- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.
- Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least **SEVEN DAYS PRIOR** to the date(s) in question using the online [NYU Florence Absence Form](#).
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

**Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity**

- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by the academic program.
- Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least **SEVEN DAYS PRIOR** to the date(s) in question using the online [NYU Florence Absence Form](#).
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

**Late Submission of Work [Please use this standard text]**

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date.
• To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

**Plagiarism Policy**

**PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:**
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, the faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school.
Writing Center:
The Writing Center, located in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting; very rough drafts are welcome. Sign up for a consultation at the Writing Center’s website and submit your working draft or ideas at least six hours in advance to NYU Florence Writing Center. You can drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Please also note that the Writing Center does not correct or “fix” your writing but prompts you to think and work. The aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term.

Required Text(s):
all class readings are available on NYU classes or on line. More information on Books and Course Materials.

Supplemental Texts(s):
Texts that students are not required to read are in NYU-FL Library or available on line

Internet Research Guidelines:
The use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 - [Sept 3-5]
The Age of the Bourgeoisie

T: The Philadelphia Declaration
Th: Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality

Session 2- [Sept 10 - 12]
Birth of Capitalism

T: Smith the Wealth of Nations
Book I and Book IV ch. VII
Th: Smith Theory of Moral Sentiments Part IV

Session 3- [Sept 17-19]
Socialism and Revolution

T: Marx and Engels, Communist Manifesto, all
TH: Lenin, State and Revolution

Session 4 - [Sept 25 and 26]
Feminism - I
Session 5- [Oct 1-3]
Feminism - II

T: Engels, The Holy Family
Th: V. Woolf, A Room on one's own

Session 6- [Oct 8-10]
State, Power, Legitimacy

T: Max Weber, Politics as Vocation
Th: Weber continued
FIRST PAPER DUE

Session 7- [Oct 15-17]
The discovery of the unconscious

T: Freud: discontent of civilization
Th: Freud, continued

Session 8 - [Oct 22-24]
T: Review Th: MID TERM TEST

Session 9 - [Enter date]
Fall break

Session 10 - [Nov 5 and 7]
Fascism and Totalitarianism

T: Mussolini, The Doctrine of Fascism (faculty.smu.edu › bkcarter › the doctrine of fascism)
Th: Brzezinski and Friedrich, Totalitarian dictatorship and autocracy, ch. 2 (through NYU Library)

Session 11 - [Nov 12 and 14]
Colonialism and decolonisation

T: M. Gandhi, The quit India Speeches
Th: J. Nehru, The Dangerous Alliance between Religion and Politics

Session 12 – Nov 19 and 21
Nov 19, CLASS IS CANCELED
Nov 21 Ambedkar: cast and class
SECOND PAPER DUE

Session 13 – Nov 26 and 28
The Holocaust
T: Modernity and the Holocaust continued
Th: Arendt Eichman in Jerusalem

Session 14 – Dec 3 and 5
Contradictions of Modernity

T: Marcuse, One-dimensional man, ch 1([http://www.marxistsfr.org/ebooks/marcuse/one-dimensional-man.htm#s1](http://www.marxistsfr.org/ebooks/marcuse/one-dimensional-man.htm#s1))
Th: Marcuse continued

Session 15 - Dec 10 and 12
Review and FINAL EXAM
PLEASE NOTE FINA EXAM TBC

Classroom Etiquette
Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.

- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings

Required Co-curricular Activities
Lecture by PRANDI on September 24

Participation to field trip to Turin (with prof. Palmer) November 15-16

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.

Your Instructor
[please insert brief text about yourself, possibly positions, publications, research specialization, conferences etc.]