PST3217 explores the philosophical theme of enlightenment. Philosophers throughout the ages, from ancient Greece to contemporary times, have maintained that human consciousness suffers from error, be it in our store of formal knowledge, our beliefs and values, or our interests and desires. In this view, we live in a world of “false” consciousness or illusion. In the enlightenment view, illusion is not accidental but is created with intent, produced and propagated by society’s institutions of education, religion, business, and government. Through critique individuals can come to recognize illusion, both as they have internalized it and as it manifests itself in the world around them. In a state of greater enlightenment, individuals may work to reform the illusion-creating systems, thereby attaining a higher degree of freedom.

PST3127 is not a class in ethics per se, but addresses core issues in ethics, most notably the presuppositions of ethical behavior. Rather than grounding ethical action on the presupposition of a rational agent acting on the basis of higher principle, such as utility maximization (Mill) or universality (Kant), we consider human rationality to be incomplete but to be capable of development and improvement. We examine cognitive impediments to ethical action (“false consciousness”), various accounts of the origins of such impediments, methods for the critique of consciousness, and visions of freedom. Readings will draw not only on philosophy but also on literature and social science.

Readings
- Texts to Purchase:
  1. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (1932)
  5. The Closing of the American Mind by Alan Bloom (1987)
- Reserve readings: all other readings are available from the library electronic reserves at www.library.gatech.edu
  Have the national & international news summary emailed to you.

Classes
Lectures are given on Mondays and Wednesdays. Fridays are for small-class discussion. Class attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of class.
Web site and Email list
Prof. Klein will use the Internet to communicate with students and to distribute materials (including material for quizzes.) You must subscribe to the Email list and know how to access the class web site.
• List name: 
PST3127-KLEIN
• To subscribe, send the following message:
  TO: SYMPA@LISTS.GATECH.EDU
  SUBJECT: SUBSCRIBE PST3127-KLEIN
• The class’s web site is here:
  https://lists.gatech.edu/sympa/info/pst3127-klein
  Note the “s” in https! This is a secure server.
• Archived class lectures (in PowerPoint) can be found in the left column option: “Shared Web”

In-class Note-taking
Computers should not be used in the classroom (they offer too many distractions.) Before class students should print out the lecture notes on the web, and in class students can take additional notes on those hardcopies.

Assignments and Grading
• There will be four short-answer quizzes. Three will be given during the term and one more will be given during the exam period. Quizzes will count equally for 50% of your grade.
• There will be two short papers (7-12 pages.) They will count equally for 50% of your grade.
• Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed, but each additional absence will lower your final grade by 1 point.
• Good participation in in-class discussion can boost your final grade by up to 3 points.
Honor Code
Students are expected to do original work in the class. Students must uphold an Honor Code that seeks "to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor (Article II, Section 2)." You must always attribute the thoughts, knowledge, and findings of other scholars when you are using them in your own work. If you have any questions about how this applies in your work, please bring it up with me or in class. For the full text of the Honor Code, please see www.honor.gatech.edu. (This paragraph includes text from a syllabus by Prof. Monica Gaughan.)

Plagiarism: Plagiarizing is defined by Webster’s as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source.” You should quote and attribute any words that are not your own.

If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. (Students educated outside the US should be especially careful here; cultural differences can be big: the US rules are significantly stricter than those of some other educational systems and the consequences are also more severe.)

Quizzes and papers are to be completed alone.

Cheating off of another person’s test or quiz is unethical and unacceptable. Cheating off of anyone else’s work is a direct violation of the GT Academic Honor Code, and will be dealt with accordingly.

“Word” is saved copies of old tests, quizzes, homework, projects, or other coursework from past semesters. Unauthorized use of any previous semester course materials, such as tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and any other coursework, is prohibited in this course. Using these materials will be considered a direct violation of academic policy and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult the instructor or see www.honor.gatech.edu.
READING and LECTURE SCHEDULE

PART I: ILLUSION

WEEK 1: (8/22): Introduction: The Happy Slave
Mon.
  • No reading for this class. Watch excerpts from The Matrix.
Weds.
  • No reading for this class. Review syllabus.
Fri. (meet in DM Smith 105)
  • Plato, “Allegory of the Cave,” on reserve or at:
  • Aldous Huxley, Brave New World, “Forward”

WEEK 2: (8/29) Propaganda; Enlightenment
Mon.
  • Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky, “Introduction” and “Preface,”
    Manufacturing Consent
Weds.
  • Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”
  • Leary, Timothy and Richard Alpert, “The Politics of Consciousness Expansion”,
Fri. (meet in DM Smith 105)
  • Allan Bloom, “The Relation Between Thought and Civil Society,” [The
    Enlightenment], The Closing of the American Mind, pp. 256-268.

WEEK 3: (9/5) The Brave New World in Fiction
Mon.
  • No class (Labor Day)
Weds.
  • Huxley, Brave New World, through Chapter XI
Fri.
  • Discussion sections begin

WEEK 4: (9/12) The Elitist Response and the University
Mon.
  • Huxley, Brave New World, to end of book (read chapter XVI closely)
Weds.
  • Allan Bloom, Part III through “Tocqueville on Democratic Intellectual Life,” The
    Closing of the American Mind, pp. 243-256.

WEEK 5 (9/19) The Brave New World Around Us
Mon.
  • John de Graaf et al., Affluenza, through chap. 9
Weds.
  • John de Graaf et al., Affluenza, through chap. 20
WEEK 6: (9/26) The Bourgeoisie and Reform  
Mon.  
Weds.  
- John de Graaf et al., Affluenza, to end of book  
Friday  
QUIZ 1

PART II. INTENT

WEEK 7: (10/3) Economic Development and the New Industrial Man  
Mon.  
- McMath, et al., Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech 1885-1985  
Weds.  

WEEK 8: (10/10) The Needs of Industry  
Mon.  
- Ewen, “Intro” and “Mobilizing the Instincts” in Captains of Consciousness  
Weds.  
- Fowles, “Deciphering Advertisements” in Advertising and Popular Culture

WEEK 9: (10/17) The Political System  
Mon.  
- Stauber and Rampton, “The Torturers Lobby” in Toxic Sludge is Good For You: Lies Damn Lies and the Public Relations Industry  
Weds.  

WEEK 10: (10/17) School  
Mon.  
- (No class: Fall Break)  
Weds.  
- Sally Reed, NEA: Propaganda Front of the Radical Left (selections)  
Friday  
- QUIZ 2
PART III: CRITIQUE

WEEK 11 (10/24)  The Power of Reason; Critical Methodology
Mon.
• Bloom, “Introduction: Our Virtue” pp. 25-43
• Hugh LaFollette, “Reading Philosophy” in Ethics in Practice: An Anthology, pp. 11-15.
Weds.
• Herman & Chomsky, Chapter 1, Manufacturing Consent,

WEEK 12: (10/31)  Application of the Methodology
Mon.
• Herman & Chomsky, Chapter 2
Weds.
• Herman & Chomsky, Chapter 3 and Conclusions

WEEK 13 (11/14)  Critique of History Textbooks
Mon.
• Loewen, Lies My Teachers Told Me, Intro & Chaps. 1 & 2
Weds.
• Loewen, Lies My Teachers Told Me, Chap. 9

WEEK 14 (11/21)
Mon.
• Loewen, Lies My Teachers Told Me, Chaps. 5 & 6
Weds.
• Loewen, Lies My Teachers Told Me, Chap. 11
Friday
• QUIZ 3

PART IV: VISIONS OF FREEDOM

WEEK 15: (11/28)  Designing the Good Life
Mon.
Weds.
• Time Europe, “The Fight for Quality of Life” April 22, 2002.

WEEK 16: (12/5)  Conservatism and Freedom
Mon.
• Friedman, Milton, Capitalism and Freedom
• Fukuyama, Francis, “Introduction” in The End of History.
Weds.
• Harries,Owen, “What Conservatism Means”The American Conservative,11/27/03

Exam Period: QUIZ 4