

**Concepts of Modernity (CMLIT 503/597b)**  
**M 2:30-5:30 (430 Burrowes), Feb 15 – Mar 22**

Professor Eric Hayot  
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Office hours: By appointment; I'm on campus daily.  
<http://www.personal.psu.edu/euh2/>

Books

Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* (MIT Press / 0-262-58102-7)  
Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity* (Stanford UP / 978-0804718912)  
Toulmin, *Cosmopolis: The Hidden Agenda of Modernity* (U of Chicago P / 978-0226808383)  
Jameson, *A Singular Modernity* (Verso / 978-1859844502)  
Buck-Morss, *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History* (U of Pittsburgh P / 978-0822959786)

In addition to these we will cover a few other sources, all of which will be available for download as PDF files from my website, at the following URL:

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/euh2/downloads.html>. You will need a username (space) and password (elevator) to access the readings. You are responsible for obtaining them, printing them out, and bringing them to class with you.

Course information:

This course traces the history of modernity as a philosophy of history, and probes its origins (and theories of its origins), its developments (and theories of its development), and current debates on its status, its existence, and its relation to the future: Kant, Hegel, Marx, Weber, Heidegger, Foucault, Anderson, Poovey, Wallerstein, Tu, and beyond..

Work and grading:

Please come to class every time with a considered, well-articulated response paper of between 500 and 700 words. Your grade for this portion of the course will be determined by your grades on those essays, with some credit given for improvement over time. I'll discuss this more in class.

As for grades, I take an A- to be acceptable, normal work done by a graduate student of your stage (this standard is different, therefore, for first- and second-year students). As are given for superior work, B+s for work that is not up to that standard. Bs indicate serious problems.

Graduate Audit policy:

It is devoutly hoped that auditors will do the reading and show up to class. Beyond that, no expectations. Auditors who wish to do the written work should speak to me about it.

Lateness and absences:

There are no excused absences unless you need to represent the university in some official way (as an athlete, for instance) or it is a religious holiday for you. Don't be late to class.

I don't accept late work unless you talk about it with me in advance. Unexcused late work will receive a grade of 0. If you are not in class when something is due (or when we take an exam), you will receive a grade of 0, unless you have an excused absence.

Plagiarism and academic honesty:

If you use someone else's ideas, whether through direct quotation or paraphrase, you need to say so. Use parenthetical references and a works cited list (as explained in the *MLA Style Guide*, available in the library or at the bookstore) to show your reader where your ideas are coming from.

Dishonesty of any other kind will not be tolerated. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Acts of dishonesty will result in academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.

Equal access:

Penn State encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible.

Daily syllabus. Have everything read before class.

Week 1 (February 15)

Friedman, "Definitional Excursions" (PDF)

Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* (chapters I, II, IV, VI, XII)

Week 2: (February 22)

Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (excerpts, PDF)

Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity*

Week 3: (March 1)

Toulmin, *Cosmopolis: The Hidden Agenda of Modernity*

Week 4: (March 15)

Jameson, *A Singular Modernity*

Week 5: (March 22)

S.N. Eisenstadt and others on "multiple modernities" (PDF)

Buck-Morss, *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History*