

SOSC 114-115-116

Power, Identity, and Resistance

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THIS SEQUENCE?

PIR examines the philosophical foundations of modern social and political thought and explores how even as emergent social sciences provided the foundation for the modern state and its accompanying social arrangements, they also provided the basis for criticism from across the political spectrum. PIR is organized around close reading of original texts in discussion-based seminars.



WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM TAKING PIR?



PIR is suitable for students from all majors who want to engage in rigorous, critical thinking, for example:

- Anyone who wants to understand how aspects of our political present emerged
- Economists interested in the relationship between the political and economic realms of society
- Natural scientists who want to think about the very nature of science itself
- Artists concerned with social and political critique

TEXTS COVERED



Autumn: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Constant, Paine, D. Walker, C.L.R. James, Wollstonecraft

Winter: Smith, Marx, Durkheim, Mauss, Kropotkin, Arendt, Hayek, Friedman, S. Mintz, E. Williams

Spring: Hegel, Tocqueville, Nietzsche, Freud, Fanon, DuBois, Arendt, M.L. King, Foucault, Beauvoir, C. Korsgaard

WHAT MAKES PIR STAND OUT AS A SEQUENCE?

- PIR focuses particularly on the dialogue between the political philosophy of liberalism and forms of social scientific inquiry that emerged in the 17th century and continues today
- PIR examines a broad range of themes, from state power and the idea of the social contract, to capitalism and economic exploitation, to equality along lines of race and gender – and much more.