

PROPERTY – AY Core Syllabus, Spring 2008 2009

'Property' is defined in its broadest sense as something owned, whether in common or by right of some individuals to the exclusion of others. Although thus associated with discrete objects, it implies as a concept the possibility of a whole mechanism of social regulation, stipulating what things are owned by whom, and in what ways. 'Property' also extends beyond the category of objects or things in an important historical sense: it has encompassed the legal ownership of some individuals by others, in conditions of greater or lesser abuse and disenfranchisement. Furthermore, the relationship of control and possession between persons and things implied by property ownership has never been stable or assured: theories of property often explore the shaping influence that owned objects have on their proprietors, and the decisive effects that various forms of social organization and their proprietary modes have on human consciousness. This shifting boundary between human being and object resonates with one of the term's meanings: it is synonymous with 'characteristic' or 'attribute', in other words, a 'property' that the individual contains or in him or herself.

Week One

Monday April 13 Public Holiday

Wednesday April 15, 10:45 Introductory Discussion: Proudhon, *What is Property?*; Carl Schmitt, "Appropriation/distribution/production"

Thursday April 16, 13:30 Seminar: Proudhon, Schmitt

Week Two

Monday April 20, 9:00 Aristotle, *Politics* (selection), John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*
Lecture: "Property Becomes a Problem" (BM)

Wednesday April 22, 10:45 Aristotle, Locke (JR)

Thursday April 23, 13:30 General Discussion (BM): Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (selection)

Week Three

Monday April 27, 9:00 J J Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (DH)

Wednesday April 29, 10:45 J J Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (JR)

Thursday April 30, 13:30 General Discussion: Rousseau, *Emile* (selection)

Week Four

Monday May 4, 9:00 Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (selection) Lecture: "Two Revolutions and a Principle of Property" (CT)

Wednesday May 6, 10:45 Burke; Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (selection) Lecture: "The Economics of Emancipation" (LS)

Week Five: State of the World Week

Week Six

Monday May 18, 9:00 Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* Lecture: Of Houses and Landscapes: Estate and Status in *Mansfield Park* (LS)

Wednesday May 20, 10:45 Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* Lecture: "The Price of Silence" (CT)

Thursday May 21 Holiday

Week Seven

Monday May 25, 9:00 Heinrich von Kleist, "Michael Kohlhaas" Lecture: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay". Kleist, Kohlhaas, and the Quest for Justice. (Sean Allan, University of Warwick)

Wednesday May 27, 10:45 G.W.F. Hegel, "Property," from *Philosophy of Right* (JP)

Thursday May 28, 13:30 Seminar: Kleist, Hegel

Week Eight

Monday June 1 Holiday

Wednesday June 3, 10:45 Karl Marx, *The German Ideology* Lecture: "Modernity and the Language of Real Life" (Thomas Docherty, University of Warwick)

Thursday June 4, 13:30 Seminar: Marx

Week Nine

Monday June 8, 9:00 Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener." Lecture: "Or is this Property yours?" (CT)

Wednesday June 10, 10:45 Max Stirner, *The Ego and its Own* (selection) Lecture: "All Things are Nothing to me" (BR)

Week Ten

Monday June 15, 9:00 Georg Simmel, *Philosophy of Money* (selections) – Lecture: “Money and the Modern Mind” (BM)

Wednesday June 17, 10:45 Henry James, *The American Scene* (selections). "Property Perched High Aloft: Watching America" (CT)

Thursday June 18, 13:30 General Discussion (all faculty)