This course will examine three fundamental forms of human association: love, friendship, and politics. While love and friendship have long been thought essential to human happiness, politics has been derided as “the systematic organization of hatreds.” In our time, politics so understood threatens to crowd out all other modes of human association: our personal loves have become partisan issues, and friendship across party lines seems increasingly rare. Understanding this danger, wise lawgivers have long paid the closest attention to love and friendship, which can check partisanship and even supersede the pursuit of distributive justice. In our bitterly divided political moment, can we attain a more elevated understanding of politics by understanding it in the light these other forms of human association?

**Required Texts, for Immediate Purchase:**


C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves* (Harcourt Brace & Company)


**Recommended Texts:**

Alexander Nehamas, *Of Friendship* (Basic)

William Deresiewicz, *Excellent Sheep* (Free Press)

**Daily Schedule**


January 16, Plato, *Symposium*, 189e-203b. [B]

January 18: Plato, *Symposium*, 203b-223d. [C]


January 30: Plato, *Symposium*, re-read 195a-212c. [C]

February 1: Plato, *Symposium*, re-read 189a-194c, 212c-223d. **Paper 1 Due by 4:30 PM.**


February 8: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book III chapter 6-Book IV chapter 2. [B]


February 20: Frederick Douglass, “What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?” and “Men of Color, to Arms!” (Handout). [B]

**February 21: Guest Lecture by Diana Schaub (Loyola University, Maryland): “Race, Friendship, and Political Justice.” 5 PM, Johns Hall 101 (Attendance Required).**

February 22: Diana Schaub Class Visit; read Douglass, “Letter to His Old Master, Thomas Auld” and “Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln” (Handout). [C]

February 27: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book IX. [A]


**March 1: Paper 2 Due by 4:30 PM.**

**March 3-11: Spring Break**


March 15: Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 57-90. [C]


**March 22: Paper 3 Due by 4:30 PM.**


April 3: Deresiewicz, “Faux Friendship,” and “The End of Solitude.” [C]

**April 4, Guest CLP Lecture by William Deresiewicz, “College and the Inner Life” 5:00 PM, Watkins Room, Trone Student Center (Attendance Required).**

April 5: Deresiewicz, *Excellent Sheep*, 1-27. [A]

**April 10: No Class (Furman Engaged)**

April 12: Final Paper Proposals Due by 4:30 pm.

April 17: Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 195-259. [C]


April 24: Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 321-388; Conclusion. [B & C]

May 1, 8:30 AM: Final Paper Due.

**Student Responsibilities:**

- **Attendance, Participation, and Reading:** 10%
- **Question Assignments:** 15%
- **Short Paper 1:** 15%
- **Short Paper 2:** 15%
- **Short Paper 3:** 15%
- **Final Paper:** 30%
- **Total:** 100%

**Attendance:** After three absences of any kind, every further absence results in the loss of 5% of your final grade. You are required to be in attendance for the entire class hour, so as not to disrupt the discussion. Please plan to arrive on time and be prepared to stay without break through the session. Drinks are permitted in the classroom, but not food.

**Participation:** Students should come to class ready to participate. You should be prepared to ask at least one question about the day’s reading. You should also be prepared to be called on at any time to answer questions from the instructor.

**Reading:** Furman policy states that students should expect 2-3 hours of prep time per class, apart from the time required to write papers. You will need the full complement of that time to read these challenging selections well. Often one needs to read these texts twice to understand their meaning and significance. To make sure that you have read for each class, there will be an occasional pop quiz.

**Question assignments:** For each class session, a group of students will be asked to articulate an informed question concerning the reading. This question should take the form of a short paragraph detailing something you don’t yet understand about the day’s assigned reading. The class will be divided into three groups, designated A, B, and C; one group will submit questions by email on each class day’s reading by 8 am before class meets.

**Short papers:** you are required to turn in 3 short (2-page) papers over the course of the semester. These papers will follow a question of your own choosing. Please see the paper guidelines and the citation guidelines for more detailed information about this assignment.

**Final Paper:** At the end of the term, you will write a longer essay (10 pages, maximum) that considers a question of your choosing over at least two of our readings. You will submit a paper proposal in advance.
This paper is your opportunity for comprehensive independent reflection on the broad themes of the course, and should be carefully planned, researched, outlined, drafted, re-drafted, and polished.

**Tocqueville Program Guest Lecturers**

**Alexander Nehamas**
Alexander Nehamas is the Edmund N. Carpenter II Class of 1943 Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Literature at Princeton University. His interests include Greek philosophy, philosophy of art, European philosophy and literary theory. Dr. Nehamas was born in Athens, graduated from Athens College, and attended Swarthmore College and Princeton University, where he received his PhD. His books include *Nietzsche: Life as Literature*, *The Art of Living: Socratic Reflections from Plato to Foucault*, *Virtues of Authenticity: Essays on Plato and Socrates*, and *On Friendship*. *Only a Promise of Happiness: The Place of Beauty in a World of Art*. He has also translated Plato’s *Symposium* and *Phaedrus* into English. At Princeton, he has chaired the Council of the Humanities, the Program in Hellenic Studies, and he was the Founding Director of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts.

**Diana Schaub**
Diana Schaub is Professor of Political Science at Loyola University Maryland and a member of the Hoover Institution’s Jill and Boyd Smith Task Force on the Virtues of a Free Society. In 2001, she was the recipient of the Richard M. Weaver Prize for Scholarly Letters. From 2004 to 2009 she was a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics. She is the author of *Erotic Liberalism: Women and Revolution in Montesquieu’s Persian Letters* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1995), along with a number of book chapters and articles in the fields of political philosophy and American political thought. She is co-editor (with Amy and Leon Kass) of *What So Proudly We Hail: The American Soul in Story, Speech, and Song* (ISI, 2011). Dr. Schaub is a contributing editor at *The New Atlantis*, and her work has also appeared in *National Affairs*, *The New Criterion*, *The Public Interest*, *The American Enterprise*, the *Claremont Review of Books*, *Commentary*, *First Things*, *The American Interest*, and *City Journal*. She earned an AB from Kenyon College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and an MA and PhD from the University of Chicago.

**William Deresiewicz**
William Deresiewicz is an award-winning essayist and critic, a frequent college speaker, and the best-selling author of *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. He taught English at Yale and Columbia before becoming a full-time writer in 2008. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The American Scholar*, *The London Review of Books*, and elsewhere. He has won the Hiett Prize in the Humanities, the Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing, and a Sydney Award; he is also a three-time National Magazine Award nominee. His work has been translated into at least 15 languages and anthologized in more than 30 college readers. He has spoken at over 60 colleges, high schools, and educational groups and has held visiting positions at Bard, Scripps, and Claremont McKenna Colleges. His previous book is *A Jane Austen Education*. He is currently working on a book about the transformation of the arts and arts careers in the new economy.