[Note to Undergraduates: For Undergraduates who enroll in the course as Econ 496 003 (CRN76372), the requirements will be less.]

**Alexis de Tocqueville**

Fall 2020, (Econ 895 003; CRN76328)

Professor Daniel Klein

Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:15, meeting place: Buchanan Hall D180

The purpose of the course will be for students to study the politic and economic thought of Alexis de Tocqueville and to develop papers for publication on related themes. This course will be a study group and workshopping course, partly to serve a project underway described here:

The central theme of the topic would be the exploration of Tocqueville’s political sensibilities and way of discoursing.

We shall read the following works:

By Tocqueville:

* *Democracy in America*. Trans. and ed. H. Mansfield and D. Winthrop. University of Chicago Press, 2000. [Link](https://www.amazon.com/Democracy-America-Alexis-Tocqueville-ebook/dp/B008H4LC6W/ref%3Dsr_1_3?crid=1761G9V90TXSF&dchild=1&keywords=alexis+de+toqueville+democracy+in+america&qid=1587670035&sprefix=alexis+de%2Caps%2C287&sr=8-3#reader_B008H4LC6W)
* *The Ancien Regime and the Revolution*. Trans. G. Bevan. Penguin Classics. [Link](https://www.amazon.com/Ancien-R-C3-A9gime-Revolution-Penguin-Classics-dp-014144164X/dp/014144164X/ref%3Dmt_paperback?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=)
* *Memoir on Pauperism*. Civitas, 1997. [Link](http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/Tocqueville_rr2.pdf)
* “The New Social Morality” (a letter of 1843 to Arthur de Gobineau), *The Portable Conservative Reader*, ed. R. Kirk. Penguin, 1982: 202-207.

Secondary literature:

* Himmelfarb, Gertrude, Introduction to Tocqueville’s *Memoir on Pauperism*. Civitas, 1997. [Link](http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/Tocqueville_rr2.pdf)
* Klein, Daniel B., The Voluntary Provision of Public Goods? The Turnpike Companies of Early America, *Economic Inquiry*, 1990: 788-812. [Link](http://econfaculty.gmu.edu/klein/PdfPapers/VoluntaryProvisionPublicGoods.pdf)
* Lerner, Ralph, “Tocqueville’s Burke, or Story as History,” in Lerner’s *Naïve Readings: Reveilles Political and Philosophic*, University of Chicago Press, 2016: 119-31.
* Raico, Ralph. Alexis de Tocqueville. Mises Institute, 2017. [Link](https://cdn.mises.org/Alexis%20de%20Tocqueville.pdf)

Students enrolled are expected to be working on research projects. Besides reading and discussing the works books indicated above, the course will direct group attention to student research project, and the professor (Klein) will advise on the student’s project.

Term papers: Graduate students will be required to make substantial progress on their projects (papers of at least 20 pages), and to be more thorough and active in reading and discussion. For undergraduates, the expectations/requirements will simply be somewhat lighter (papers of at least 12 pages).

**Getting Help:** Four good ways to get help from me: (1) email me; (2) ask questions during class, (3) talk to me right after class; (4) talk by phone – but I call you (email your ph number to me) – **talking by phone usually works really well.** Email me, and we will go from there. I promise to respond quickly.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the [Office of Disability Services](http://ods.gmu.edu/) at 703.993.2474 or [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu/). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.