

**PHIL5350**  
**THE POLITICS OF PHILOSOPHY/THE PHILOSOPHY OF POLITICS**  
**READING HANNAH ARENDT**

**PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN**  
**PA3A61 EXT 1783**

**DESCRIPTION**

*Particular questions must receive particular answers*

This course will explore the relationship between philosophy and politics – between thought and action – through a close reading of selected writings by Hannah Arendt. The course will be run as a seminar with individual students assuming responsibility for introducing each of the weekly readings. Evaluation will be based on seminar participation and presentation, take-home exam and a final essay on a topic of your choice.

**REQUIRED TEXTS.** Available from **Allbooks**, 327, Rideau St. (next to the Bytowne Cinema). Open 10:00 am – 9:00 pm Mon-Sat, Noon – 9:00 pm Sun. Tel: 613 789 9544.

1. *Between Past and Future. Eight Exercises in Political Thought.* Hannah Arendt. Penguin Books, 1968.
2. *The Promise of Politics.* Hannah Arendt. Edited with an introduction by Jerome Kohn. Schocken Books, 2005.
3. *Responsibility and Judgment.* Hannah Arendt. Edited with an introduction by Jerome Kohn. Schocken Books, 2003.

**RECOMMENDED**

Melvyn A. Hill, 'Introduction'. *Hannah Arendt. The Recovery of the Public World.* Edited by Melvyn A. Hill (on RSV at the library).

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be recorded and one percentage point deducted from your final grade for each absence (up to a maximum of 10%).

**EVALUATION (provisional)**

Seminar	30%
Essay	40%
Final Exam	30%

**SEMINARS:** All students are responsible for at least one seminar presentation. Seminar instructions are attached to this outline. The grade for the seminar will be based on the quality of your individual presentation(s) as well as your overall seminar participation throughout the course. Participation includes attentive listening as well as oral contributions informed by careful consideration of the assigned readings and/or other materials relevant to the topic of the course.

**OFFICE HOURS: FRIDAYS 12:00 – 1:00 pm and/or by appointment.**

**ESSAY: Due on or before 21 DECEMBER 2014**

12 – 15 double-spaced typed pages on a topic of your choice to be determined in consultation with the professor.

**TAKE-HOME EXAM: Due on or before 21 DECEMBER 2014**

Distributed in the last class.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- week 1**      **Introduction** and assignment of seminar responsibilities.
- week 2**      **Introducing Arendt**  
Introduction + Prologue. *Responsibility and Judgment*, pp. vii – 14.  
Introduction. *The Promise of Politics*, pp. vii – xxxii.
- week 3**      ***Between Past and Future***  
PREFACE: The Gap Between past and Future, pp. 3 – 15.  
Ch.1. Tradition and the Modern Age, pp. 17 – 40.  
Ch. 2. The Concept of History: ANCIENT AND MODERN, pp. 41 – 90.
- week 4**      ***Between Past and Future***  
Ch. 3. What is Authority? pp. 91 – 141.  
Ch. 4. What is Freedom? pp. 143 – 171.
- week 5**      ***Between Past and Future***  
Ch. 5. The Crisis in Education, pp. 173 – 196.  
Ch. 6. The Crisis in Culture, pp. 197 – 226.
- week 6**      ***Between Past and Future***  
Ch. 7. Truth and Politics, pp. 227 – 264.  
Ch. 8. The Conquest of Space and the Stature of Man, pp. 265 – 280.
- week 7**      ***The Promise of Politics***  
Socrates, pp. 5 – 39.  
The Tradition of Political Thought, pp. 40 – 62.
- week 8**      ***The Promise of Politics***  
Introduction *into* Politics, pp. 93 – 200.  
Epilogue, pp. 201 – 204.
- week 9**      **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**  
Assignment TBA. Due in class Friday 14 November.
- week 10**     **NO CLASS**  
Assignment TBA. Due in class Friday 14 November.

**week 11**     **TBA**

**week 12**     ***Responsibility and Judgment (Responsibility)***  
 Personal Responsibility Under Dictatorship, pp. 17 – 48.  
 Collective Responsibility, pp. 147 – 158.  
 Thinking and Moral Considerations, pp. 159 – 189.

**week 13**     ***Responsibility and Judgment (Judgment)***  
 Reflections on Little Rock, pp. 193 – 213.  
*The Deputy: Guilt by Silence?* pp. 214 – 226.  
 Auschwitz on Trial, pp. 227 – 256.  
 Home to Roost, pp. 257 – 275.

**DISTRIBUTION OF TAKE-HOME EXAM – DUE 21 DECEMBER 2014**

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

1. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading which were the most **interesting** and helpful *to you* and your interests in the context of this course and be prepared to explain and clarify your selection. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of interest explaining your choice for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
2. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading with which you had the most **difficulty** and be prepared to explain why this is so. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of difficulty clarifying the problems you have with the text for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
3. Summarise the **principal argument** of the assigned reading(s) in 2 or 3 sentences.
4. Prepare a 2-page typed, single-space **report** of all of the above to be handed to the instructor at the end of the class.



## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

### Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

### Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

### Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory 520-7850 <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a>
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735