

**PSCI 5308W**  
**CONCEPTS OF POLITICAL COMMUNITY II**  
Tuesdays 11:35 am - 2:25 pm. SA 406

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 to 2:30 pm.

**Theme of the Course: The Ontology of Political Wholeness**

This course examines the prospects for political community explored in major works by G.W.F. Hegel, Friedrich Nietzsche and Martin Heidegger. All three of these thinkers fall within the broad paradigm of German Idealism or, as it is also known, the Philosophy of Freedom. German Idealism arose in response to the widely perceived drawbacks of the modern Enlightenment paradigm of liberalism. As against what many saw as the narrow contractual individualism, materialism, utilitarian rationality and spiritually impoverished view of human experience characteristic of liberalism, German Idealism beginning with Hegel sought a restored sense of human community inspired by classical thought and the ancient Greek *polis*, while at the same time salvaging what was truly noble in the modern experiment – the dignity and individual freedom of every human being. They envisioned a reconciliation between the modern individual and the contexts of tradition, leading to an enriched sense of civic participation and a society that would be uplifted by aesthetic and educational attainments rather than merely materialistic aims. Yet, in attempting to combine what was best about the ancient world with what was best about the modern world, these thinkers encountered a problem. They could not return to the classical understanding of teleology stemming from the eternal Good – thought by all to have been trumped by modern natural science – but instead had to find the missing ground of unity between individual and community in time-bound historical existence. The great debate among Hegel, Nietzsche and Heidegger centers on what lies at the heart of this historical existence: whether or not history progresses, and whether an accommodation of any sort can ultimately be reached with liberalism (Hegel's optimism in this regard being severely criticized by Nietzsche and Heidegger). By exploring these works, we can try to get to the deepest questions about whether there is any prospect for salvaging modernity by re-infusing it with a sense of context and solidarity.

**Required Texts: On order at Bookstore and on reserve at Library.**

1. G.W.F. Hegel, PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT. NB: I have ordered the Miller version from Oxford University Press because it is easily available in print. However, the earlier Baillie translation, in my view superior to Miller's and providing far more in the way of useful commentary about the precise historical parallels and theoretical arguments Hegel is addressing, is now available free on line in its entirety.

2. Friedrich Nietzsche, BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL.

3. Martin Heidegger, BEING AND TIME.

**Recommended Reading: On reserve at Political Science Resource Centre:**

Waller R. Newell, "Origins Of Enchantment: Conceptual Continuities In The Ontology Of Political Wholeness." In Nalin Ransinghe, ed. *Logos and Eros: Essays Honoring Stanley Rosen*.

**Requirements and Evaluation:**

- 1) A term paper of 15 pages double-spaced typed to be submitted at my office on the last day of the Winter term, April 9 at 12 noon. Worth 50% of grade.
- 2) Weekly oral presentations on the readings on an equally rotating basis. Worth 50% of grade.

**Attendance and Lateness Policy:**

- 1) Attendance is obligatory, not optional. Every student is expected to attend every class unless the student has a recognized documented medical or personal excuse for being absent.
- 2) Late papers will be penalized by half a grade a day after the final due date for submission.

**Schedule of Readings:**

Jan. 8. Introductory remarks on themes and issues of the course.

Jan. 15. Hegel, PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT. Readings are by section number in Miller, not page number. Preface, 1-41; Introduction (entire); The Truth of Self-Certainty, 166-177; Lordship and Bondage, 1768-196; Stoicism, 197-201.

Jan. 22. Hegel continued. Skepticism, 202-205; Unhappy Consciousness, 206-230; Spirit, 438-443; Ethical World, 446-463; Right, 477-483; Self-estrangement, 484-486.

Jan. 29. Hegel continued. Absolute Freedom and Terror, 582-596; Forgiveness, 670-671; Religion, 672-683.

Feb. 5. Nietzsche, BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL. Books 1 to 3.

Feb. 12. Nietzsche continued. Books 4 to 6.

Feb. 26. Nietzsche continued. Books 7 to 9.

March 4. Heidegger, BEING AND TIME. Arabic numbers refer to sections, not pages. Introduction: The Question of Being. I. 1-4. II. 5-7.

March 11. Heidegger continued. Part One. Existence, Being-in-the-World, Being-with-Others, Care. Division One. I. 9-11. II. 12. III. 14-16. IV. 25-27. V. 28-39. VI. 40-42.

March 18. Heidegger continued. Division Two. Being-towards-Death, Resoluteness, Authenticity, History and Peoples. 45. I. 49-51. II. 54-60. III. 61-62, 64. V. 72-74.

March 25. Concluding remarks I.

April 1. Concluding remarks II.

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## Academic Accommodations

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008** for April examinations.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make

accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.