

PSCI 6301W
Political Theory II

Lectures : Thursdays 11:35-2:25 p.m.

Instructor : Professor Lee MacLean

Office: Loeb D686

Office Hours: Monday 11:15-12:15; Thursday 10:15-11:30 and 3:30-5:15 p.m.

E-mail: Lee_MacLean@carleton.ca

Office tel.: 520-2600 ext. 4129.

This is a core course; it is designed to prepare students to write the PhD comprehensive exams in political theory. As such, we will study a selection of the most important works of political philosophy. This term, our focus will be on modern Western political theory from Hobbes to Nietzsche. The themes we will study will include: individual freedom and self-interest and their relation to conceptions of virtue and the common good; the development of state of nature and social contract theories and human rights discourses; relativism and standards for judgment of ethical questions; justice; gender; religion; slavery; vain glory; violence; equality; liberty; liberalism; sovereignty and democracy.

We will note the contrast between Aristotle's claim that politics is a natural form of association and the teachings of Hobbes and Rousseau that political association is conventional. We will probe the implications of the nature/convention distinction (as well as these different conceptions of political association) for conceptions of justice and right.

We will also consider the overall character of modern political thought as a response to ancient political thought and to the rise of modern natural science and technology.

N.B The course will proceed by close textual and contextual study of primarily classical philosophical texts. Our approach will be theoretical.

Texts:

Thomas Hobbes. On The Citizen. Trans. Michael Silverthorne. Ed. Richard Tuck
Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The First and Second Discourses. Trans. Judith Masters . Ed.
Roger Masters. St. Martins Press, 1964.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. On the Social Contract: With Geneva Manuscript and Political
Economy. Trans. Judith Masters . Ed. Roger Masters
Bedford Books, 1978.

John Locke. A Letter Concerning Toleration. Ed. James Tully. Hackett, 1983.

Karl Marx. The Communist Manifesto. Ed. David McLellan.
Oxford, 1992.

John Stuart Mill. The Subjection of Women. Ed. Susan Moller Okin.
Hackett, 1988.

F. Nietzsche. Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future
Trans. Walter Kaufmann. Vintage, 1989.

**A required package of readings

Recommended:

Hannah Arendt. The Human Condition. Chicago, 1998.

Course Work:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Seminar summary and commentary (3-5 doubled-spaced pages)	10%
Short essay on an assigned passage of Hobbes (5-7 double-spaced pages), due Feb.16	20%
Course Essay (10-12 double spaced pages), due April 6	60%

The seminar summary and commentary is a short written response to important issues and questions discussed in the previous seminar. Each student is required to write one seminar summary and commentary of 3-5 doubled-spaced pages and to submit it at the beginning of the seminar the following week.

A description of the criteria that will be used in marking both of the essays will be handed out along with the short essay topic. The criteria will include: clarity, precision, organization, coherent justification, focus, provision of ample evidence and documentation.

Notes on writing the course essay: Since formulating research topics is a crucial part of the activity of scholarship, I would encourage you to formulate your own paper topic for the course essay. It should be about the treatment of a theme or issue in the works we study in their entirety, i.e., the works by Hobbes, Rousseau, Locke, Marx or Nietzsche. You are free to write on a theme in one or two or more of these works.

In order to formulate a thesis statement, you may find it useful to pose a 'thesis question,' the answer to which will be the thesis statement itself. Your paper should attempt to prove and support your thesis statement. Nonetheless, the thesis statement and argument of the essay will likely evolve and change as you work. Therefore, to ensure that all the sections of your paper are relevant to its main argument and help to develop and explain it, you will likely need to draft a series of outlines.

Policy regarding late papers: A penalty of one half point per day will be imposed on all late papers not excused by a doctor's certificate. Unless you have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen, you can expect the penalty to be fairly and consistently applied.

Please also note the following:

- Assignments cannot be submitted to the department by fax .
- Essays placed in the drop box after 4 p.m. are date stamped the following day.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- All components of course work (attendance and participation, seminar summary and commentary, short essay and course essay) must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Schedule of Readings:

Numbers refer to readings in the course pack.

Week of:

Thurs. Jan. 5	Introduction
Thurs. Jan. 12	-Nietzsche, <u>Beyond Good and Evil</u> , Nietzsche's Preface and "On the Prejudices of Philosophers" and "The Free Spirit" 1) Thucydides, " The Melian Dialogue" from <u>The Peloponnesian War</u> , (trans. T.E. Wick, Modern Library, 1982) 2) Aristotle, <u>The Ethics</u> , Book 5, Chapter 7 (trans. Joe Sachs, Focus Publishing, 2002).
Thurs. Jan. 19	3) Aristotle, <u>The Politics</u> , Book 1, Chapters 1 and 2 (trans. Carnes Lord. University of Chicago, 1984). -Hannah Arendt, <u>The Human Condition</u> , chapter 7 (On reserve).
Thurs. Jan. 26	4) Michael Walzer, <u>Just and Unjust Wars</u> , Chapter 1; -Thomas Hobbes, <u>On The Citizen</u> Epistle Dedicatory, Preface, ; Chapters 1-4 (Liberty)
Thurs. Feb.2	<u>On The Citizen</u> , Government, Chapters 5-14
Thurs. Feb. 9	<u>On The Citizen</u> , Religion, Chapters 15-18; Nietzsche, <u>Beyond Good and Evil</u> , "What is Religious"
Thurs. Feb. 16	Short Essay due. Rousseau, <u>Second Discourse</u>
Feb. 20-24	Reading Week

- Thurs. March 2 On the Social Contract, Books 1 and 2
- Thurs. March 9 On the Social Contract, Books 3 and 4;
John Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration.
- Thurs. March 17 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, Epigrams and Interludes, Natural
History of Morals
Marx, Manifesto of the Communist Party,
- Thurs. March 23 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil , We Scholars, Our Virtues, Peoples
and Fatherlands
Mill, The Subjection of Women, Chapter 1 (On Reserve)
- Thurs. March 30 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, What is Noble.
5) Hannah Arendt, "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of
Government" from her The Origins of Totalitarianism, (Harcourt
Brace, 1951).
Conclusions
- Thurs. April 6 Course Essay due.



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 deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

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).

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: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

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.*

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.