

**PSCI 1001A**  
**Great Political Questions**

Friday 14:35 – 16:35

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Fall Term

Instructor: Dr. K.C. Fitzpatrick

Office: Loeb D646

Telephone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 1598 (no voice-mail)

Office Hours: Friday 16:00 – 17:00

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Course Description

This course aims to give students a general introduction to some of the Great Political Questions of the Western Tradition by studying the thought of some of the greatest political thinkers that have ever lived. It examines the relevance of Classical, Christian and Modern Thought on contemporary political debates and the way eternal questions of justice, free will, enlightenment, government, history, community and culture are framed and reframed depending on the purposes to which they are being deployed. Political thought is about questions more than answers and it is how and why different thinkers arrive at different solutions to the eternal problems of politics. Students will be expected to engage with key theorists in the Western tradition by reading an essay on that theorist from the required text. Class lectures, tutorials and readings will all help the student explore and interrogate his/her own thoughts on the question at hand in preparation for written work and exams. Students will be expected to understand the problem as posed by the philosopher and critically evaluate both the lecture and reading materials as they develop their own ideas in relation to the key concepts and ideas of contemporary political discourse.

Sources:

Required: Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey (eds.) History of Political Philosophy Third Edition, University of Chicago Press., London) ,1987 ISBN 9780226777108

Supplemental: Steven M. DeLue and Timothy M. Dale, Political Thinking, Political Theory, and Civil Society, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Pearson and Longman; New York) 2009, ISBN 978-0205-61979-5

One of the key aims and objectives of this course is to encourage students in the validity and value of their own thoughts and ideas through a combination of

required and supplementary readings exploring the questions raised in class lectures. The required readings are designed to introduce a key political theorist who addressed the question under consideration while the supplementary text is provided in order to assist students grasp the general ideas and main themes under study. The use of further “summary” secondary readings or web-site materials is discouraged as it simplifies complex ideas and will inhibit original thought. If you feel you must consult these types of sources, please be aware of the plagiarism guidelines explained below and ensure that all citations are clearly and properly identified.

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

**25% First Short Essay** - 4 to 5 pages (due Fri. Oct. 22 at the end of Class)

**25% Second Short Essay** – 4 to 5 pages (due Fri. Dec. 3 at the end of Class)

**20% Class Participation** – attending tutorials + assigned presentation

**30% Final Exam** (during formally scheduled exam period)

The Exam will be 3hrs and contain two sections: the first will be a choice of 4 short answer questions out of a possible 6; (40%); the second section will be a choice of two essay questions from a choice of 5 (60%).

### **General Schedule of Lectures and Readings:**

Class 1: Sept. 10 - Plato: What is Justice?

Required Readings: *Plato*; by Leo Strauss pp. 33 - 89

Supplementary: Chapter 2

Class 2: Sept. 17 – Aristotle: What is Happiness?

Required Readings: *Aristotle*; by Carnes Lord, pp. 118 – 154

Supplementary: Chapter 3

Class 3: Sept. 24 – Augustine: What is Free Will?

Required Readings: *Augustine* by Ernest L. Fortin, pp. 176 - 205

Supplementary: Chapter 4

Class 4: Oct. 1 – Machiavelli: What is Authority?

Required Readings: Machiavelli by Leo Strauss, pp. 296 – 317

Supplementary: Chapter 6

Oct. 8 – University Day – no class

Class 5: Oct. 15 – Hobbes: What is Sovereignty?

Required Readings: *Hobbes*; by Laurence Berns, pp. 396 – 420

Supplementary: Chapter 7

Class 6: Oct. 22 – Locke: What is Government?

Required Readings: *Locke*, by Robert A. Goldwin, pp. 476 - 512

Supplementary: Chapter 9

Class 7: Oct. 29 – Rousseau: What is Community?

Required Readings – *Rousseau*, by Allan Bloom, pp. 559 – 580

Supplementary – Chapter 10

Class 8: Nov. 5 – Kant: What is Enlightenment?

Required Readings: *Kant* by Pierre Hassner, pp. 581 - 621

Supplementary – Chapter 11

Class 9: Nov. 12 – Hegel: What is History?

Required Readings: *Hegel* by Pierre Hassner, pp. 732 – 761

Supplementary – Chapter 12

Class 10: Nov. 19 – Marx: What is Emancipation?

Required Readings: *Marx* by Joseph Cropsey, pp. 802 – 828

Supplementary – Chapter 13

Class 11: Nov. 26 – Nietzsche: What is Nihilism?

Required Readings: *Nietzsche* by Wener J. Dannhauser

Supplementary: Chapter 17

Class 12: Dec. 3 – Conclusion and Review.

**All components of the course must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.**

Course work will be evaluated by the content of their critical and analytical thought as well as the basic requirement that students demonstrate a clear and competent understanding of lecture material and the assigned course readings. Writing style, including spelling, grammar and the thoughtful presentation of a coherent structure and argument, will also be taken into consideration.

Late Submission of Work: Papers/assignments must be submitted in class to the Instructor on the day they are due. **The Political Science drop-box is intended to collect late assignments only**, or if a student has extenuating circumstances which have been approved by the instructor, at least a week before the due date. There will be a mandatory late penalty for any papers/assignments collected from the drop box without prior approval, **even on the date the assignment is due**. This policy has been implemented to ensure students attend class on assignment due dates. The drop box is emptied every weekday at 4 p.m. and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with the day's date. **Late penalties are one-third letter grade per day late**, i.e. a paper grade B+ is downgraded to B the first late day, followed by B- the next etc. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted without a prior extension being granted by the instructor. Valid medical excuses only accepted for term work extensions.

**Note:** Attendance is required at all lectures. Valid excuses accepted, otherwise absenteeism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to bring the book we are reading to class lectures.

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#### **Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 15 2010 for December examinations and March 11 2011 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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**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:** 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:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.