

PSCI 1001A
Great Political Questions
Monday/Wednesday 9:35-12:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Peter Emberley
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Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 12:30 to 1:30, or by appointment

In this course we are reading two challenging, but highly instructive, accounts of the emergence of the modern and contemporary world, and its politics. Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) and Michel Foucault (1926-1984) have had a vast influence in the last three decades on our understanding of political life, and its centrality to our being. They share the view that politics is an artifice, and that it is about power, though Arendt sees politics (rightly constituted) as liberating us from natural necessity, and permitting genuine, meaningful freedom and community, while Foucault sees politics as creating artifices whose aim is to discipline us, constituting our “being” in line with economic, social and political requirements. Whereas Arendt is concerned that we are reducing our potential as human beings to merely labour and consumption (the modern preoccupation), and that this puts us in great risk of being dominated by necessity, Foucault wants us to understand that the “discursive regimes” of health, safety, education, sexuality, crime, and madness constitute, not so much truth and justice, but subtle means of controlling and managing us down to the most microscopic level of desire and pleasure. Arendt wrote that “we must think what we are doing,” an aspiration as applicable to Foucault’s work.

Required Books:

Michel Foucault, *The Foucault Reader* (Random House), available at bookstore (FR)
Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, University of Chicago Press, available at bookstore (HC)

Course Work:

25% Mid-Term Test (May 26) short-essay questions
25% Short Essay 5- 7 pages (due June16) - Topics Distributed May 12
50% Final Examination (during formally scheduled exam period) -entire term’s work

NOTE:

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

SCHEDULE:

May 10: Introduction

May 12: HC, Prologue, Chapter 1, pp. 1-21

May 17: HC, pp.22-78, The Public and the Private Realm

May 19: : HC, pp. 79-135, Labor

May 24: No Class - Stat Holiday

May 26: HC, pp. 136-174, Work – midterm test-

May 31 HC, pp.175-247, Action

June 2: HC, pp. 248-325, The Vita Activa and the Modern Age

June 7: FR, pp. Introduction, 1-30; Truth and Method, pp.31-101

June 9: FR.pp.121-168, Practices and Knowledge

June 14: FR,pp. 169- 239, Disciplines and Sciences of the Individual

June 16, FR; pp. 291-330, Sex and Truth Practices of the Self –short essay due-

June 21: FR, pp. 333-380, Practices and Sciences of the Self

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 **June 11 2010 for early summer examinations and July 30 2010 for late summer 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).

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, visit our website at 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.