

N.A. Political Traditions  
GEORGE GRANT: HIS POLITICS, HIS INTELLECTUAL SOURCES, AND HIS CRITICS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 5306F  
FALL TERM 2012  
Tuesday 11:35 – 2:25

Instructor: Professor Peter Emberley  
Office: Loeb D685  
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:30-12:30, or by appointment  
Tel.: (613) 520-2600 x.2577  
Email: peter\_emberley@carleton.ca

This seminar is focused on the political philosophy of George Grant. As Canada's great nationalist writer, he is renowned for his book *Lament for a Nation* - which warned of Canada's demise as an independent nation-state under the pressure of America's imperial ambitions, advanced by technology and an ethos of pragmatism. Grant combined astute political analysis with a wide-ranging commentary on the intellectual and spiritual sources which he argued could contribute to the preservation of Canada's autochthonous roots. Drawn into dialogue with the thought of Leo Strauss, Eric Voegelin, Charles Cochrane, Simone Weil, Philippe Sherrard, Celine, Heidegger, among others, Grant offered a multi-pronged analyses of contemporary life, including technology, education, politics, literature, history, music, and philosophy, the ensemble of which, as one commentator aptly construed, constituted "subversions of modernity."

**REQUIRED TEXTS: (Available at the Carleton University Bookstore)**

George Grant, **Lament for a Nation**  
George Grant, **Technology and Empire**  
George Grant, **Technology and Justice**  
George Grant, **English-Speaking Justice**  
George Grant, **Time as History**  
George Grant, **Philosophy in the Mass Age**  
**The George Grant Reader**, ed. by William Christian and Sheila Grant  
**Coursepack:** Available at Carleton University Bookstore

ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY:

**Athens and Jerusalem: Grant's Theology, Philosophy and Politics (AJG)**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Presentations and Participation	30%
Seminar Summaries Weekly	30%
Term Paper (Due Dec 7)	40%

Seminar participants will be expected to contribute weekly to the discussion, exhibiting evidence of reflection on the assigned materials. Each participant will be expected over the term to give three to four 10-15 minute seminar presentations on the week's assigned pages. Seminar participants will also be expected at the beginning of each class to submit a 2-3 page summary/commentary on the salient issues discussed in the previous seminar. Summaries will be graded and returned weekly. Paper topics will be distributed in the second week of class. In discussion with the instructor, you may also develop your own topic.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **September 10**

**Introduction to the Thought of George Grant:** David Cayley, *The Ideas of George Grant*  
CBC Ideas

### **September 18**

**Lament for a Nation**, and other political writings GGR 43-153  
The Years of Lament 1960-70, in *George Grant, Selected Letters*  
George Grant, *Technology and Empire – In Defense of North America, Canadian Fate and Imperialism*  
James Doull, *A naturalistic Individualism: Quebec Independence and an Independent Canada* (coursepack)  
Barry Cooper, *imperio usque ad imperium: The Political Thought Of George Grant* (Coursepack)  
John Muggerridge, *George Grant's Anguished Conservatism* (coursepack)  
James Reimer, *George Grant: Liberal, Socialist or Conservative* (coursepack)

### **September 25**

**Philosophy, Education, The Multiversity Philosophy in the Mass Age** GGR ,157-203  
"Faith and the Multiversity," in *Technology and Justice*  
"The University Curriculum," in *Technology and Empire*"

### **October 2**

**The History of Political Philosophy**  
GGR 207-236, 279-317, 321-368  
George Grant *Five Lectures on Christianity* (coursepack)  
Neil Robertson, *Freedom and the Tradition: George Grant, James Doull and the Character of Modernity* (Coursepack)

Barry Cooper, George Grant and the Revival of Political Philosophy (coursepack)  
Ian Angus, Athens and Jerusalem? A Critique of the Relationship between Philosophy and Religion in George Grant's Thought (coursepack)

### **October 9**

#### **Leo Strauss, and Alexandre Kojeve**

George Grant, Philosophy in the Mass Age

Time as History

“Tyranny and Wisdom” in Technology and Empire

GGR 266-279; George Grant, Leo Strauss and Political Philosophy

Clark A. Merrill, Leo Strauss’ Indictment of Christian Philosophy (coursepack)

Wayne Whillier, George Grant and Leo Strauss: A Parting of the Way (Coursepack)

H.D. Forbes, George Grant and Leo Strauss (coursepack)

Grant Havers, George Grant and Leo Strauss: Modernist and Postmodernist Conservatism

Alexander Duff, Response to the Strauss-Kojeve

Debate: Grant’s Turn from Hegel to Christian Platonism (coursepack)

Gregory Butler, Leo Strauss, George Grant, and Historicism (Coursepack)

### **October 16**

#### **Thinking about Technology:**

George Grant, Technology and Empire

George Grant, Time as History

GGR 394-444

Thinking about Technology in *Technology and Justice* (coursepack)

Re-read: Faith and the Multiversity, in *Technology and Justice* (coursepack)

### **October 23**

#### **Questions of Justice**

George Grant, Technology and Justice

George Grant, English-Speaking Justice

GGR 387-395

Samuel Ajzenstat, Abortion in George Grant’s Thought (coursepack)

Leah Bradshaw, Love and Will in the Miracle of Birth: An Arendtian Critique of George Grant on Abortion(coursepack)

### **October 30**

#### **The Writings of, and Commentary on, Simone Weil *Gravity and Grace***

“Introduction to Simone Weil (GGR)

Petrement’s Simone Weil (GGR)

“In Defense of Simone Weil (GGR)

### **November 6**

#### **The Theology of the Cross, and Philippe Sherrard**

GGR 447-482

Wayne Whillier, ed. Two Theological Languages (coursepack)

Harris Athanasiadis, *The Theology of the Cross: Its Origins, Meaning, and Significance* (coursepack)

Sheila Grant, *George Grant and the Theology of the Cross*

*The Latin West and the Greek East* (on reserve)

### **November 13**

#### **The Attraction to Celine**

GGR 369-383

George Grant, *Celine's Trilogy* transcribed by Sheila Grant (coursepack)

Ed Andrew, *Grant's* (coursepack)

Excerpt from Celine's *Journey to the End of the Night*

### **November 20**

#### **Interpretations and Critical Commentaries I**

Zdravko Planinc, *Paradox and Polyphony in Grant's Critique of Modernity* (coursepack)

Ronald Beiner, *Grant, Nietzsche, and Post-Christian Theism*

Ian Angus, *Athens and Jerusalem: A Critique of the Relationship Between Philosophy and Religion in George Grant's Thought*

### **November 27**

#### **Concluding Discussion and Review**

#### **An Adendum: Grant and India**

#### **NOTE:**

**All components of the course (essay, weekly seminar participation, 12 seminar summaries) must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.**

**Essays must be submitted on the day specified. Late papers will be docked one grade per weekday (from B+ to B, etc.). Late assignments not submitted directly to the instructor must be placed in the drop box outside the Political Science main office, B640 Loeb. Essays placed in the drop box after 4:00 pm are date-stamped the following day. Essays cannot be submitted to the Department by fax.**

#### **Academic Accommodations**

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 me 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

**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.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

**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.

**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.