

PSCI 4308 A
History of Political Enquiry
Tuesday, 18:05-20:55
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Graham Howell
Office: Loeb B646
Office Hours: 5:00 to 6:00pm on Tuesday's or by appointment
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Course description

The course is a philosophic study of the history of political enquiry and it will examine nature, a part of which is human nature, as an object of study in the western tradition. One of the central points of debate surrounding the role of nature in political enquiry is whether knowledge of nature is relevant to knowledge of politics. If knowledge of nature is relevant to understanding politics, political enquiry can discover standards by which one can make important distinctions in the political realm, such as between good and bad regimes or between just and unjust wars. If knowledge of nature is irrelevant to the study of politics, then politics becomes the study of power and it becomes more difficult to consistently and coherently distinguish the just from the unjust or between tyrannical rule and virtuous rule. Both positions have compelling proponents in the history of political philosophy.

This course will focus on contrasting the views of nature presented in the works of Francis Bacon and Aristotle. By focusing on the contrast between Aristotle, the founder of ancient and medieval science, and Francis Bacon, a founder of modern technological science, the course aims to deepen the students understanding of political enquiry.

Texts

The following texts are **required**:

Texts are available for purchase at Carleton University Book Store.

- Aristotle's Physics: A Guided Study. Translated by Joe Sachs. Publisher: Rutgers University Press ISBN: 9780813521923 (Bookstore)
- Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics: translated by Joe Sachs. Focus Publishing/R. Pullins ISBN: 9781585100354 (Bookstore)
- Bacon, Francis. Selected philosophical works By Francis Bacon, edited and translated by Rose-Mary Sargent. Hackett Publishing Company. ISBN: 0872204707 (Bookstore).
- Selected material which will be either be placed on reserve at the library or provided to the students.

Recommended

- Kass, Leon. *Toward a more Natural Science*. Free Press. ISBN: 0029170710
- Winch, Peter. *The Idea of Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy*. Routledge. ISBN: 0415423589
- Trigg, Roger. *Understanding Social Science: A Philosophical Introduction to the Social Sciences*. ISBN 0631218726.

NOTE: THE USE OF SECONDARY SOURCES OTHER THAN THOSE ASSIGNED IS NOT PERMITTED.

• Term Work

Short Exegetical Essay: The essay length is 4-5 double spaced pages.

- Assigned September 29th and due in class 3 weeks later on October 20th, 2009 (15%)
- As per Early Feedback guidelines, assignments will be returned on Nov 3, 2009.

Longer Term Paper: The essay length is 8-10 double spaced pages

- Students will be selecting their own topic from the course, subject to approval by the instructor. Due November 24th, 2009 (20%).

Take Home exam. The exam will be composed of four short essay questions.

- Assigned on December 1st, 2009 and due December 15st, 2009 (40%)
- The take home exam will be designed to test all the material covered in the course.

Participation and weekly presentations which will rotate weekly on an equal basis (25%)

Note: Please submit term work either in-class or during your office hours. The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only or if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the paper directly to you in class or during your office hours.

Lateness policy and Attendance policy

- 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.
- Late papers will be penalized by a third of a grade a day after the final due date for submission. For example, if a paper is one day late and would have received an A-, the paper would receive a B+.
- **Tentative Readings Schedule. Subject to change - A detailed schedule of readings will be handed out on the first day of class.**

Week 1 (Sept. 15) - Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 22) – Week 4(Oct. 6): Aristotle’s Physics

Week 5 (Oct. 13) – Week 6 (Oct. 20): Aristotle’s Ethics

Week 7 (Oct. 27)– Week 9 (Nov. 10): Bacon’s Great Instauration and New Organon

Week 10 (Nov. 17– Week 12(Dec. 1): Bacon’s New Atlantis

• 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 16, 2009 for December examinations and March 12, 2010 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).

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.