

PSCI 5306A

North American Political Traditions

George Grant: His Politics, Intellectual Sources, Commentators, and Critics

Wednesdays 8.35-11.25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Peter Emberley
Office: Loeb D685
Tel.: (613) 520-2600 x.2577
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:30 - 2:30

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 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 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:

The George Grant Reader, edited by William Christian and Sheila Grant
Coursepack: Available at Carleton University Bookstore

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Presentations and Weekly Participation in Discussion: 30%
Seminar participants will be expected to contribute weekly to the discussion, exhibiting evidence of reflection on the assigned materials. Each participant will be expected to give two 10-15 minute seminar presentations on assigned sets of passages, each of which will constitute 20% of the seminar grade; the other 20% of the participation grade will be based on weekly contributions to the discussion.)
2. Seminar Summaries: Worth 30%
(Seminar participants will 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)
Due: December 1

3. Term Paper 40% (Topics to be distributed in second week of class. In discussion with the instructor, you may also develop your own topic.

CLASS SCHEDULE: (GGR denotes **The George Grant Reader**; “*” denotes on reserve)

- September 10 **Introduction to the Thought of George Grant:** David Cayley,
“The Ideas of George Grant,” CBC Ideas, November 1995
- September 17 **Lament for a Nation**, and other political writings
GGR 43-153
“The Years of Lament 1960-70,” in *George Grant, Selected Letters*
James Doull, “Naturalistic Individualism: Quebec Independence
and an Independent Canada” (coursepack)
Barry Cooper, “*A imperio usque ad imperium: The Political Thought
Of George Grant*” *
John Muggeridge, “George Grant’s Anguished Conservatism” *
A. James Reimer, “George Grant: Liberal, Socialist or Conservative” *
- September 24 **Philosophy, Education, The Multiversity**
GGR ,157-203
“Faith and the Multiversity,” in *Technology and Justice* (coursepack)
- October 1 **The History of Political Philosophy**
207-236, 279-317, 321-368
George Grant “Five Lectures on Christianity”
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
Ian Angus, “Athens and Jerusalem? A Critique of the Relationship
Between Philosophy and Religion in George Grant's Thought” *
- October 8 **Leo Strauss, and Alexandre Kojève**
GGR 266-279; George Grant, “Leo Strauss and Political Philosophy”
Peter Emberley, Review Article of Daniel Tanguay, *Leo Strauss: An
Intellectual Biography*
Clark A. Merrill, “Leo Strauss’ Indictment of Christian Philosophy” *
Wayne Whiller, “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-Kojève Debate:
Grant’s Turn from Hegel to Christian Platonism”

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 date-stamped in the Political Science Office, Loeb B640, during working hours. Essays placed in the drop box after working hours are date-stamped the following day. Essays cannot be submitted to the Department by fax.**
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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 (9500 University Drive) 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 I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than 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 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, 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 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: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

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: 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.

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.