The College of the Humanities
Humanities Program

HUMS4000: Politics, Modernity and the Common Good

Prof. Waller R. Newell                      Prof. Farhang Rajaee
Phone: 520-2600 X 2765                      Phone: TBA

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays; 14:35-15:55 (Fall: Online asynchronous.
Winter: Paterson 303, synchronous/live)
Tutorials: G-1. Thursdays 16:05-17:25; G-2 Tuesdays 16:05-17:25 (Fall: Zoom
synchronous. Winter: Paterson 302)

Description
The Bachelor of Humanities program focuses on the human condition and the civic
virtues. Year one approached humanity as homo dei, year two centered on human reason,
and year three considered humanity in its aesthetic dimensions. The fourth-year core
seminar explores how, beginning with the French Revolution, the most radical forces of
modernity set out to emancipate humanity from all forms of traditional authority. How
did this project unfold and what efforts were made either to restrain or intensify it?
Although new and radical, these ideas emerged from a debate stretching all the way back
to ancient Greece. The fourth-year core seminar, therefore, brings the whole adventure
of the Bachelor of Humanities curriculum to a conclusion and returns the conversation to
the world of the 21st century.

The theme for the first term is the emergence of modernity and its significance for
political theory and the common good. The term “modern” came into use during the
Renaissance. It was a contraction of the Latin phrase modus hodiernus, meaning “the
way of today.” To identify oneself with the way of today meant that one repudiated the
way of yesterday, meaning the way of classical political philosophy and medieval
Christianity. Therefore, in order to understand the meaning of the modern, we must see it
in the context of the tradition that it was defining itself against. To do this, we will return
to some territory covered in previous core courses, but from the perspective of political
theory and practice. We begin with the classical natural right teaching of Plato
and Aristotle, tracing its adaptation by Christianity. With the Renaissance, we arrive at
the threshold of modernity and its secular and religious streams, as represented by
Machiavelli and the Reformation. That leads to the full-blown teaching of modern
natural right systematized by Hobbes and Locke, drawing on the new physics of matter in
motion — the theoretical origins of modern liberal democracy. We conclude with the
great protest against liberal modernity inaugurated by Rousseau and elaborated by the
German historical school as represented by Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche. The early
modern social contract theories of Hobbes and Locke had taken issue with the classical
tradition by stressing the importance of the individual as opposed to the political
community; by stressing the importance of freedom as opposed to virtue; and by stressing
the importance of material self-interest as opposed to the sacrifice of one’s self-interest on behalf of the common good. The historical school attempted to restore the priorities of classical political thought, once again elevating the common good over individual self-interest. But it did so, not on the basis of an appeal to a Platonic and Aristotelian cosmology of the eternal truth — thought to have been disproven by modern natural science — but on the basis of historical progress and the attempt to synthesize ancient virtue with modern liberty. Ending with Nietzsche, we reach the verge of contemporary existentialism and post-modernism.

In the second term, we continue with the presupposition that underlined the first semester, namely that a gigantic paradigm shift happened in human consciences as well as its consciousness. However, while the first term took the conversation through a philosophical debate as to the nature of these new ideas, this part of the course will look at the unfolding of those ideas in the real world as the civilization of modernity. The “common good,” however defined, requires a robust civilizational framework to help its materialization. The Athenian civilization proved the breeding ground for the ideas, notions, and concepts that form the foundation of the modern West. The new ideas, concepts and notions have led to the emergence of a civilization with autonomy, independence, and freedom as qualities for agency, the modus operandi, and the social structures, that not only have led to the emergence of the self as agent/actor, but also to the societal form of the sovereign state, and the anarchical society of states, and the global capitalist system. What are the nuances of this transformation? What did it entail? The first half of the term concentrates on the unfolding of the modernity process into a civilization through the works of the giants of our time.

We begin the term with the classic work of the American/German philosopher, Hannah Arendt, on the human condition. Even though she has been described as one of “Heidegger’s children,” she has gone beyond the German tradition and provides a giant revival of the Aristotelian question of what does it mean to be human but within the context of the modern condition. Then through examining the works of our own Canadian philosopher, Charles Taylor, we explore the modus operandi of the modern civilization. For Taylor the modern condition of secularity means a great dis-embedding from the brink of tradition, where the self is left on his/her own reason and how this idea has led to the emergence of an all-pervasive order. We shall continue with the works of the International Relation Theorist, Hedley Bull, who provides an insightful portrait of the spatial structures and organizations (or the international system) that shapes the public square in the modern civilization. In the second part of the course, we turn to thinkers who are harsher about the modern civilization than the aforementioned thinkers are. They argue that in practice, power politics and money, not freedom, and autonomy dominate the public domain in the unfolding of the industrial European and American worlds and more so, it extended to the non-Western world as well. We deal with the literary, philosophical, religious, and post-modern treatments of the modernity-based civilization. Here, we begin with Salman Rushdie and continue with Edward Said and Gandhi, ending with Michael Foucault. These thinkers invite us to a radical reconsideration of the present condition of a globalized and yet fragmented world. They provide insightful meditation on our present epistemology, the nature of our relation with the world and the divine and may help us comprehend the prevalence of the various forms of extremism, politics of identity, terrorism and 21st century tribalism.
Course Requirements (for each term): The final grade of this course will be the combined grades of the following for both terms;

Following the lectures and participation* (20%)
A paper** (40%)
Take-home exam*** (40%)

NOTE: Each term is calculated based on the 20% + 40% + 40% breakdown above; to get the final grade for the full-year course, add the Fall and Winter grade totals and divide by two.

* Following the lectures and attending the discussion groups is obligatory, not optional. Grade is based on regular class and discussion attendance, and participation through asking questions and offering comments. Students may be asked to make presentations in the discussion groups, on an equally rotating basis, on the readings for that week. NB: Please DO NOT switch discussion groups without a valid excuse. The only valid excuse is a conflict with another regularly scheduled Carleton University course — i.e., not a directed studies tutorial or any form of extra-curricular activity. It is essential that we keep the two groups with as equal numbers as possible to schedule the presentations evenly across the groups and to distribute the opportunity to contribute to the discussion evenly across the groups. If you do have a valid excuse due to a course conflict, please inform Prof. Newell for the Fall and Prof. Rajaee for the Winter as soon as possible.

** 12 pages double-spaced typed. To be submitted Friday December 10 in the Fall and Friday April 9 in the winter term. Topics will be provided, but students are encouraged to think of the topic they like to pursue. Due to expected continuing restrictions on access to campus because of COVID-19, E-submissions will be acceptable. Late papers will be fined by a fraction of a grade (i.e., A to A-) for each day.

***In accordance with university regulations, the take-home exam will be released at the last lecture class. It will be due on the last day of the exam period (December 23rd for the fall and April 28th for the Winter) by 12 noon. The questions will cover the entire semester of readings and themes, with some degree of choice. E-submissions will be acceptable.

Delivery of the course. As you are aware due to COVID-19, the Fall term is online (and we think that the winter term also will be online, although we hope that it would not be). So, there is a change in the delivery of the course material. Our course will be a blend of asynchronous and synchronous. The lectures will be asynchronous, delivered by podcast and will be available through Brightspace for you shortly before the assigned date and will remain there afterward. The discussion groups will be synchronous, and we will conduct
them on Zoom as though we are in person. The Zoom link will be available on the HUMS 4000 home page on Brightspace. The way we hold office hours will be conveyed to you later.

**Fall Term Texts:**

Friedrich Schiller. *Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man*. (see NB).
Friedrich Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Dover.

**NB:** ALL OF THESE TEXTS ARE ON ORDER AT THE BOOK-STORE. BUT ALL OF THEM ARE AVAILABLE AS A PDF ONLINE, IF YOU PREFER THAT OPTION. I WILL PROVIDE THE SCHILLER READING.

**Approximate Schedule of Readings for the Fall Semester:**


Lecture 2 (Sept. 14). Physis versus Nomos. The emergence of Greek political philosophy against the backdrop of the moral and political crisis of the 5th century B.C.


Lecture 8 (Oct. 5). The Reception of Classical Political Philosophy by Christianity.


**OCTOBER 11: CLASSES SUSPENDED**


**OCTOBER 25 TO OCTOBER 29: FALL BREAK**


Lecture 15 (Nov. 4). Locke continued.

Lecture 16 (Nov. 9). Rousseau. *First Discourse*.

Lecture 17 (Nov. 11). Rousseau. *Second Discourse*.


Lecture 19 (Nov. 18). G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*.


Lecture 22 (Nov. 30). Nietzsche. *On the Advantages and Disadvantages of History for Life*.

Lecture 23 (Dec. 2). Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. 
Lecture 24 (Dec. 7). Nietzsche continued.


**Winter Term Texts:**
Hannah Arendt. *The Human Condition*
Hedley Bull. *The Anarchical Society*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punish*
M. K. Gandhi. *Hind Swaraj and Other Writings*
Edward Said. *Orientalism*
Charles Taylor. *Modern Social Imaginaries*

**A NUMBER OF THESE TEXTS ARE NOW IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE, IF YOU WISH TO PURSUE THIS OPTION.**

**Approximate Schedule of Themes and Readings for the Winter Semester:**

**Civilization**
Lecture 1 (Jan. 11): Introductory Remarks; Non-holistic worldview and its Civilization

**The Civilization of Modernity**
Lecture 2 (Jan. 13): Being Human (Arendt, 1-78)

Lecture 3 (Jan. 18): Labour and Work (Arendt, 79-174)


Lecture 6 (Jan. 27): Modern order and “Self-Understanding” (Taylor, 1-67)

Lecture 7 (Feb. 1): “Social Self-Understanding” I (Taylor, 69-107)

Lecture 8 (Feb. 3): “Social Self-Understanding” II (Taylor, 109-161)

Lecture 9 (Feb. 8): Consequence; Secularity (Taylor, 163-196)

Lecture 10 (Feb. 10): Anarchical Society (Bull, 3-50)

Lecture 11 (Feb. 14): Ends of AS: Order and Justice (Bull, 51-94)

Lecture 12 (Feb. 17): Means in AS-I (Bull, 97-155)

**February 21–25 Winter Break**
Lecture 13 (Mar. 1): Means of AS-II (Bull, 159-222)

II: Critics of the Civilization of Modernity
Lecture 14 (Mar. 3): The World of Optimism Disease (Rushdie, 1-288)
Lecture 15 (Mar. 8): The Fractured Modern Soul (Rushdie, 289-533)
Lecture 16 (Mar. 10): Swaraj as the Human Condition (Gandhi, 5-41)
Lecture 17 (Mar. 15): The Reality of India (Gandhi, 42-65)
Lecture 18 (Mar. 17): Ture Civilisation (Gandhi, 66-119)
Lecture 19 (Mar. 22): Said and Orientalism (Film)
Lecture 21 (Mar. 29): The New Phase of Orientalism (Said, 329-352)
Lecture 22 (Mar. 31): Constructed Worlds (Foucault, 3-31)
Lecture 23 (Apr. 5): The Working of the System (Foucault, 135-169)
Lecture 24 (Apr. 8): Maintaining the System, Surveillance (Foucault, 195-228)
Lecture 25 (Apr. 12): Summation and Take Home Exam
University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines
This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Online Learning Resources
While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. On this page, you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses: Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Copies of Written Work Submitted
Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Academic Integrity Policy (updated June 2021)
Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one’s own.

Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
• any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
• using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms,
formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
• using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
• submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
• failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Integrity Process

Academic Accommodation Policy
Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Addressing Human Rights Concerns
The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University’s educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities.

Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Religious Accommodation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please review the Student Guide to Academic Accommodation.

Pregnancy Accommodation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of
class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please review the Student Guide to Academic Accommodation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit the Equity and Inclusive Communities website.

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see the Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the Paul Menton Centre website.

Grading System at Carleton University
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found here. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright
Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or
distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s). More information

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

1. Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases this must occur no later than three (3) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student’s earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar’s Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic accommodation or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should consult with the department/school/institute chair/director. If a mutually agreeable accommodation to complete course requirements prior to the course grade submission deadline cannot be achieved, the Associate Dean will become involved. If academic accommodation is not granted, and the student receives word after the academic withdrawal deadline, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar’s Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) for a final grade of WDN (Withdrawn) in the course(s). If academic
accommodation is not granted, and the student receives word prior to the academic withdrawal deadline, the student may elect to withdraw from the course(s).

4. Furthermore, if academic accommodation is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. More information of deferred Term Work

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,

2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office here.

More information on Final Exam Deferrals Registrar's Office “Defer an Exam” page

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend, you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published fee deadlines and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published deadlines (see Academic Withdrawal).
If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the “Calculate amount to pay” button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

**Department Contact Information**

*Bachelor of the Humanities* 300 Paterson Hall  
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

*Greek and Roman Studies* 300 Paterson Hall  
GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

*Religion* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

*Digital Humanities (Graduate)* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

*Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

*MEMS (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca