

Carleton University
College of the Humanities; Humanities Program
HUMS 4104A: "Political Thought and the American Founding" Winter 2014
Dr. Geoffrey C. Kellow

Winter Term, Mondays 2:30-5:30 PA 303

Contact Information

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Office Hours : Tues & Thurs. 11:00-12:00pm.

Course Outline

This course examines the intellectual history of the American Founding with a special emphasis on the role of political theory. The course will trace the origin and development of key concepts in the American political tradition. In particular, the course will examine the 18th century emergence and development in the American context of such key political concepts as representation, sovereignty, and individual liberty alongside debates around of the structure and substance of government and governance.

The course will treat texts that informed Revolutionary thought, in particular works by Locke, Montesquieu, Trenchard and Gordon. It will also treat texts which were produced as part of or in response to the Revolution and the Constitutional Convention including works by Edmund Burke, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and Patrick Henry.

The course will consider these texts and concepts both in their historical context and with an eye to their enduring influence on the American political tradition and beyond.

Required Texts

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (Cambridge)

Edmund Burke, *Thoughts On The Cause Of Our Present Discontents* (Liberty Fund)

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (Penguin)

The Federalist Papers, (Hackett)

The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates (Signet)

Readings Available On-Line

Trenchard & Gordon, *Cato's Letters* (Liberty Fund)

Alexander Hamilton, *Revolutionary Writings* (Liberty Fund)

John Adams, *Revolutionary Writings* (Liberty Fund)

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

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.

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- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;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 can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives 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 only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library

Course Requirements

Take Home Exam	40 %
Review Essay	20%
Research Essay	40%

Research Essay

The research essay is a work of independent research conducted by the student and addressing an element of the intellectual history of the United States in the period of the Revolution and Founding broadly construed (1763-1789). Students may choose to study and write on texts, authors or themes developed in the course or, with prior approval, develop a paper on a subject within the period but outside the material covered in the syllabus. The research paper should be approximately 3000 words in length and involve a substantial engagement with both primary and secondary literature. **The Research Essay is Due April 7th.**

Review Essay

The review essay is a short essay, exegetical in purpose, on a text by one of the authors surveyed in this course. The review essay must cover a text not explicitly addressed in the course. The selected text concern themes addressed in the course. Examples of such texts include Montesquieu's *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline* or John Locke's *Letter Concerning Toleration*.. The essay should be 1250 words in length. There is no expectation of secondary research. **The Review Essay is Due February 10th.**

Take Home Exam

The take home exam will consider all the material covered in the course. It will be handed out on **April 7th** in lecture and must be returned to my office (Patterson 2A59) by **2:00pm on Friday April 11th**. **Take Home exams submitted after 2:00pm will receive a grade of zero. Electronic submissions of take home exams will not be accepted.**

Course Attendance

Students are expected to attend lecture and to arrive prepared to engage with the material assigned for the week. Regular attendance and participation is, as mandated by the University, a necessary condition for successful completion of the course.

Late Penalty

The late penalty is 5% per day. All assignments are due at the beginning of lecture on the date indicated. Papers submitted after that will be assessed the late penalty. Papers that are submitted more than 8 days after the due date will not be evaluated and will receive a grade of zero.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious instructional offence. The statement on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar explains that plagiarism is “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product work of another without expressly giving credit to another” (48). This includes material found on the Internet. All cases of plagiarism will be forwarded to the Dean’s Office.

Duplicate assignments

It is not permitted to submit the same assignment to two or more courses.

Course requirements

Students must fulfill **all** course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade.

Lecture Schedule

Monday January 6th

Introduction

Monday January 13th

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

Monday, January 20th

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

Monday, January 27th

Trenchard & Gordon, *Cato’s Letters* (selections)

Monday, February 3

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Monday, February 10

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Review Essay Due

Monday, February 17th,

Reading Week

Monday, February 24th,

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Monday, March 3

Edmund Burke, *Thoughts On The Cause Of Our Present Discontents*

Monday, March 10th

Edmund Burke, *Two Speeches on America*

John Adams, *Revolutionary Writings*, (selections)

Monday, March 17th

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Alexander Hamilton, *The Farmer Refuted*

Monday, March 24th,

The Federalist Papers,

The Constitutional Convention Debates

Monday, March 31st

The Constitutional Convention Debates

The Anti-Federalist

Monday, April 8th

Summary Lecture

Take Home handed out and research paper due