

HUMANITIES 4903A: The Conservative Intellectual Tradition

Dr. Geoffrey C. Kellow

Mondays 2:35-5:25pm, Humanities Seminar Room

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00.

Email: Geoffrey.Kellow@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course will examine key texts in the Conservative Intellectual Tradition beginning with Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* and concluding with important conservative thinkers from the present day. The course aims to consider this tradition from the interconnected grounds of philosophy, culture and politics. This course is not intended to convince or dissuade students from adopting conservative views, rather the course seeks to critically examine and understand one of the main strands of modern intellectual life in the West.

Course Objectives

Students completing this course should possess a grasp of the key issues to which conservatism responds and the circumstances under which it emerges. Students will also possess an understanding of some of the main strands of modern conservative thought and an appreciation for the deep heterogeneity of that thought.

Course Requirements

Term Paper 30%

Class Participation 20%

Presentation: 20%

Executive Summaries: 30%

Term Paper

There is one term paper assignment in this seminar. The term paper should be between 3000 and 3500 words in length. The term paper should be a work of original research, including substantial engagement with secondary scholarly literature, on an author or theme treated in the seminar. The term paper may be based on your seminar presentation. The term paper is due at the beginning of the last seminar, **Friday, December 7th**.

Students must also submit a paper proposal, a one page outline of their research plan. The paper proposal is due in class on **Monday, November 19th** and is a **required** component of the paper assignment.

Late Policy: Papers are due at the beginning of seminar, papers submitted after that will be docked **10% per day** to a maximum of five days. After that papers will receive a grade of zero.

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend all seminars. Students should come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to participate directly in the seminar discussion. A pattern of non-attendance will be considered grounds for receiving a grade of zero for participation.

Presentation

Each student is expected to present on one of the thinkers treated in this course. The presentation should be in the form of a scholarly conference presentation and should last approximately 20 minutes. The presentation should not be a topic summary of the but rather an exploration of an important aspect of the text. Students should sign up for presentations on the CULEARN course page for HUMS 4903.

Executive Summaries

Students are expected to submit 10 executive summaries over the course of the term, each worth 3%. The **ONE PAGE** summary should identify one key question and two concerns that the assigned readings for that week raise. The summary should include quotations and specific page references that clearly identify the source of the question and concerns.

A Note on the Seminar Format

This seminar's format is bound by the principles identified in *The University of Chicago Statement on Free Expression* (<https://carleton.ca/bhum/academic-institutions/university-chicago-statement-freedom-expression/>) as endorsed by the Bachelor of Humanities Program at the College of the Humanities. Participants should expect a seminar environment that welcomes and celebrates a heterodoxy characterized by lively and respectful civil discourse.

Required Texts

All required texts are available at All Books, 327 Rideau St.

Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett)
Tocqueville, *Ancien Regime and the French Revolution* (Anchor)
Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy*, (Oxford Classics)
Ortega Y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (Norton)
T.S. Eliot, *Christianity and Culture*, (Mariner)
George Grant, *Philosophy in a Mass Age* (UofT Press)
Michael Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics & Other Essays* (Liberty Fund)
Eric Voegelin, *Science, Politics and Gnosticism*, (ISI Books)
Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, (Chicago)
Alisdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, (Notre Dame)

Seminar Schedule

Monday, September 10th
Introduction, *What is Conservatism?*

Required Readings (On CULEARN)

Samuel Huntington "Conservatism as an Ideology" (American Political Science Review, 1957)
Russell Kirk, *Ten Conservative Principles*, (Kirk Center)
Friedrich Hayek, *Why I am not a Conservative*, (Chicago)

Monday, September 17th
Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Monday, September 24th
Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*.

Monday, October 1st
Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Ancien Regime & The French Revolution*

Monday, October 15th
Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy*
Matthew Arnold, *Dover Beach* (CULearn)

Monday, October 29th
T.S. Eliot, *Christianity and Culture*
T.S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*, (CULearn)

Monday, November 5th
Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses*

Monday November 12th
George Grant, *Philosophy in a Mass Age*

Monday November 19th
Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*

Monday, November 26th
Michael Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics & Other Essays*
Paper Proposal Due

Monday, December 3rd
Eric Voegelin, *Science, Politics and Gnosticism*
Eric Voegelin, *Reason: The Classic Experience* (CULearn)

Friday, December 7th
Alisdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*
Term Papers due at beginning of seminar



University Regulations for 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

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, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

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

Pregnancy obligation: write to the 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 [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to the 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 [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: 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 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).

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 is 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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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 is below. 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.

[Grading System](#)

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).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

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.

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 (3.0) 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. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

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. [More information](#).

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online 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 [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#):

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. [More information](#)

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)