

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 2901A, TRUTH AND PROPAGANDA**

TERM: Fall, 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Randal Marlin

CLASS TIMES: Tues. & Thurs. 1:05 p.m.-2:25 a.m.

CLASS LOCATION: St. Pat's, SP435

OFFICE: 3A56 Paterson Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Tues.& Thurs. 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Other times by arrangement.

TELEPHONE: 520-2600-ext. 3797 (voice mail number)

E-MAIL: marlin@ncf.ca

WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.carleton.ca/~rmarlin>. Any use would be archival, as it is no longer interactive.

Prerequisite: A 0.5 credit in Philosophy or Second-year standing.

Evaluation

There will be an essay worth 40% of the final mark, due December 7. Details about this essay are provided below. One in-class test will take place Thursday, October 18, worth 30%, and there will be a scheduled final examination, also worth 30%.

Required texts

1. Randal Marlin, *Propaganda and The Ethics of Persuasion* (Second Edition, 2013).
2. Jacques Ellul, *Propaganda*. Published in 1962 in French and 1965 in English, this has become a classic, losing none of its relevance in 2018.

Highly recommended:

Jacob Stanley, *How Propaganda Works*

Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Edward Bernays, *Propaganda* (with Introduction by Mark Crispin Miller)

Noam Chomsky & Edward Herman, *The Manufacture of Consent*

David Coady, *The Routledge Handbook on Applied Epistemology*

David Nyberg, *The Varnished Truth*

Garth S. Jowett & Victoria O'Donnell, *Propaganda and Persuasion*

Other reading materials will be on reserve in the main library, or accessible on the Internet.

On the Internet see, among many other sources, [Global Media Journal, Canadian Edition, Vol. III, No 2](#) devoted to "Propaganda, Ethics and Media," December, 2010. Consortium News, Truthout, PRWatch, SourceWatch and the Real News Network are among the sites I find regularly rewarding. There is a wealth of useful Web sites to be found listed in Tom Engelhardt's engaging blog www.tomdispatch.com/.

It is most important that students be able to access the Net conveniently.

Course description

What is propaganda? We often hear this term used pejoratively as an accusation. But ambiguities make the nature of the charge unclear. This course aims at providing an understanding of techniques of persuasion, both ancient and modern, in the light of which propaganda as a phenomenon can best be understood. Students should get a heightened awareness of the many

influences on their opinions and attitudes, not all of which would necessarily be termed “propaganda.” Misleading use of language and statistics, advertising imagery, political disinformation, press agency, ideologically motivated funding of “think tanks,” reporting and editorial biases, all make it difficult for the ordinary citizen to make sound democratic choices. Knowledge of the various persuasive techniques will, it is hoped, improve individual freedom and autonomy. We deal briefly with the ethics of various forms of persuasion and the question of social and legal controls over communication in the context of, e.g., hate propaganda, media ownership, etc. The problem of relativity of “truth” and the concept of bias and objectivity are recurring questions that receive attention.

For more information about the essays, schedule of topics and readings and other matters, please visit the cuLearn website.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018/19)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- Must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips.
- Must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box).
- Must include the following on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor’s name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day’s date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar’s Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of ‘plagiarism’ as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

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

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. carleton.ca/pmc

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor 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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor 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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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 its 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>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Sept. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735