

PSCI 2300B
History of Political Thought
Friday 12:35-2:25 p.m. / 101 AT

Instructor : Professor Lee MacLean
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Office Hours: Monday 1-2:30 p.m.; Friday: 11:15-12:15 p.m.
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The Winter portion of History of Political Thought is designed to offer students an introduction to some of the most important thinkers and questions in Modern Western Political Thought. The themes we will study include: individual freedom and self-interest and their relation to conceptions of virtue and the common good; the development of state of nature and social contract theories and human rights discourses; relativism and standards for judgment of ethical questions; nature and human nature; justice; gender; religion; equality; liberty; vain glory; violence; liberalism; sovereignty and democracy.

We will also consider the overall character of modern political thought as a response to ancient political thought and to modern events and circumstances, such as the rise of modern natural science and technology.

Objectives and Goals for the Winter term:

This part of the course is designed to give students an understanding of the character and development of modern political philosophy and of the role of key thinkers in that development. Of course, a further objective is to understand the teachings of these philosophers on their own terms and to compare and contrast the thinkers' approaches to major issues. This course also provides a starting point for reflection upon the impact of modern political philosophy on the opportunities and challenges of modern political life.

The course is also designed to help the student understand and practice the art of interpretation. Another key goal is to teach students the importance of careful reading. A further goal is to help students become clearer writers. The course also provides an opportunity for students to refine their skills of argumentation and to practice critical thinking.

Prerequisite: second year standing

Class attendance and discussion group attendance are necessary for success in this course. Please read the assigned texts before class and bring the texts with you to class.

Class Etiquette: Each person who speaks in class should be given the floor; talking or whispering to other students while someone else is speaking is destructive of the quality of class deliberation.

Note: We will proceed by close textual and contextual study of classical philosophical texts. Our approach will be theoretical.

Books Required for Purchase:

Note: Please be sure to buy the recommended translations.

Niccolò Machiavelli. The Prince. Trans. Harvey C. Mansfield. University of Chicago, 1985.

Thomas Hobbes. Leviathan Ed. C.B. Macpherson. Penguin, 1981

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The First and Second Discourses. Trans. Judith Masters . Ed. Roger Masters. St. Martins Press, 1964.

Alexis de Tocqueville. Democracy in America. Trans. Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop. University of Chicago, 2000.

Winter Term Course Requirements:

The winter term will account for 50% of your total grade for PSCI 2300B

Participation	10%
Short Paper, 5-7 double-spaced pages, due Fri. Feb.29	30%
Quiz on Fri. March 14	10%
Winter term exam (during the formal exam period, April 11-29)	50%

Essay: The essay is due in class on Fri. Feb. 29. The required length is 5-7 double-spaced pages (with no more than 300 words per page). Your essay will be marked on the basis of criteria which include: clarity, organization, coherent justification, focus, provision of ample evidence and documentation, reflection on course readings and overall grasp of the topic under discussion. A one-page description of these criteria will be distributed when the paper topics are handed out. The same grading criteria (with some adjustments due to the difference of format) will be used for the exam. Our goal will be to return all graded essays that are passed in on time to students within three weeks of the date the essay is due.

Policy regarding late papers: A penalty of one half point per day will be imposed on all late papers not excused by a doctor's certificate (i.e. A paper that is one day late and assigned an original grade of 21 / 30 will become 20.5 / 30). Unless you have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen, you can expect the penalty to be fairly and consistently applied.

Quiz: The quiz will consist of true or false questions based on statements that are contained in the texts we read by Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau. For the quiz, you will be responsible for all the required the material in these texts. In very exceptional circumstances, make-up quizzes may be administered by the Teaching Assistants but only if students have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen.

Winter Term Exam: You will be given five essay questions on the last day of classes. Two of these will appear on the exam and you must write on both.

Please also note the following:

- Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Political Science will not be accepted.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- The Undergraduate Calendar states "To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations." (Academic Regulation [AR] 2.1) The grade of 'F' will be assigned where term work is incomplete.

Reading Assignments:

Week of:

Fri. Jan. 11	Introduction
Fri. Jan. 18	Machiavelli, <u>The Prince</u> , Dedicatory Letter, Chapters 1-7
Fri. Jan. 25	<u>The Prince</u> , Chapters 8-18
Fri. Feb. 1	<u>The Prince</u> , Chapters 18-26
Fri. Feb. 8	Hobbes, <u>Leviathan</u> , Letter to Goldolphin (pp. 75-76); Introduction, pp. 81-83; Chapters 13-16
Fri. Feb. 15	<u>Leviathan</u> , Chapters 17-21
Feb. 18-22	Reading Week
Fri. Feb.29	<u>Leviathan</u> , Recommended: Chapters 1- 2, Required: Chapters 6 and 10-12.
Fri. March 7	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <u>Second Discourse</u> , Letter Dedicatory; Preface and Part 1
Fri. March 14	True/False Quiz on Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau <u>-Second Discourse</u> , Part 1, continued, and Part 2
Fri. March 21	Holiday – No Classes; Tip: begin reading Tocqueville this week.
Fri. March 28	Tocqueville, <u>Democracy in America</u> , Tocqueville’s Introduction, pp. 3-15; Vol. 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, pp. 56-92;
Fri. April 4	Vol. 1, Part 2, Chapters 6-9, pp. 220-302. (The chapters listed refer to the edition by Mansfield and Winthrop. Note that other editions may list chapters 6-9 of Vol. 1 Part 2 as 14-17 instead) Vol. 2, Notice, pp. 399-400; Vol. 2, Part 2, Chapters 1-9, pp.479-506;
Mon. April 7	<u>Democracy in America</u> , Tocqueville, <u>Democracy in America</u> , Vol. 2, Part 4, Chapter 6, pp. 661-665. Conclusion

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14th, 2008** 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.