

PSCI 3300A
POLITICS AND LITERATURE:

Thursday 8:35-11:25
415 SA

Instructor: Professor Peter Emberley
Office: Loeb D685
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 12:30 - 2:30, and by appointment
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The nature of political statesmanship is a central theme in political philosophy. What are the limits to, and possibilities for, political rule? What are the tensions and politically-unfulfillable longings which complicate political rule? What experiences of goodness and evil qualify attempts to institute order? How are prudence and good judgement formed by an understanding of the intractable contradictions of human nature? What part do statesmen/stateswomen play in the civic education of citizens? How do laws and constitutions educate citizens to civic virtue? What are the risks to political order which come from excessive confidence in technique and law?

We will explore classical and modern writers to acquire a rich and comprehensive understanding of human nature. We will then see how these accounts of humanity are played out in diverse political settings where order has been disrupted, or needs to be re-instituted.

Required Texts:

Sophocles, *Three Theban Plays*, Penguin
Aristophanes, *Complete Plays of Aristophanes*, Bantam
William Shakespeare, *King Lear*, Signet
Herman Melville, *Billy Budd Sailor and Other Stories*, Penguin
Edgar Allen Poe, *18 Best Stories by Edgar Allen Poe*, Dell
Newton Arvin, *Hawthorne's Short Stories*, Vintage
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Bantam Dell
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, and *The Grand Inquisitor*

As we will be consulting the texts extensively in each class, it is very important that you purchase only the texts indicated above, as translations and pagination vary widely.

Recommended Reading:

James Schall: *At the Limits of Political Philosophy*
Hannah Arendt, "The Private and Public Realm," in *The Human Condition*
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 15-19
Aristotle, *Politics*, ch 1-3, 7-8

Grading:

Mid-Term Test: 40% (February 16)

Final Scheduled Examination: 60% (during the formal examination period, April 10 - 29)

Schedule:

January 5: Human Nature and Statesmanship: Aristotle and Machiavelli

January 12: Hawthorne, "The Black Cat," "The Bosom Serpent," "The Birthmark," "Rappucini's Daughter"

January 19: Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Mask of the Red Death" "A Tale of the Ragged Mountains"

January 26: Hawthorne, "The Artist of the Beautiful"

Poe, "The Maelstrom," "The Facts in the Case of M. Valedemar," "Premature Burial," "Tell-tale Heart"

February 2: Dostoevsky, Notes from Underground and The Grand Inquisitor

February 9: Camus, The Outsider

February 16: Aristophanes, "Ecclesiazusae," "Archanians"

March 2: Aristophanes, "Birds"

March 9: Sophocles, "Oedipus Rex," "Antigone"

March 16: Shakespeare, King Lear

March 23: Herman Melville, Billy Budd

March 30: Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

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 deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

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: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

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.*

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.