

PSCI 3300 Section A
Politics and Literature
Tuesdays from 6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.
515 Southam Hall

Instructor: Catherine Pacella
Office: D685 Loeb Building
Office Hours: Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., or by appointment
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Course description:

“The expectation that human beings can and will bring about their own perfect order by their own efforts, however, presents us with one of the most perplexing issues in political philosophy: namely, why can we not find a ‘perfect’ form of rule?”
James Schall, *At the Limits of Political Philosophy*, pg. 26-27

The question of political statesmanship is a central theme in political philosophy. As Schall has rightly asked, why can we not find a “perfect” form of rule? What are the limits and possibilities for political rule? How do experiences of goodness and evil in man aid and/or complicate the ability of a statesman to establish good political order? Using the work of classical and modern political theorists such as Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Hannah Arendt, we will explore classic pieces of literature to see how the authors express these challenges to politics. These books raise important questions that help us to understand about the role of virtue and vice in the political community, the power of man’s will, and the presence of tyranny, just to name a few. In order to delve into these questions, we will closely examine both the diversity of human-types represented in the characters and the political environment in which they inhabit.

Required Texts

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Sophocles, *Antigone*
J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Short Stories* (“*The Birthmark*”, “*Rappacini’s Daughter*”, “*The Artist of the Beautiful*”)
William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*
William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*
William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*

All texts are available at the Carleton University Book Store with the exception of *Waiting for the Barbarians* by J.M.Coetzee. You can find copies of this text online or in most used or new bookstores. Additional readings by Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Nietzsche, Strauss, Arendt, and Taylor will be available on reserve at the Carleton University Library.

Course Requirements

Essay – 50% (Due: February 12, 2008)
Take-Home Exam – 40% (Due: April 29, 2008)
Attendance and Participation – 10%

All assignments will be given a numerical mark and a corresponding letter grade.

Evaluation of Term Work

The essay is due on February 12, 2008, in class at 6:05 p.m. The essay will be 6-8 pages in length and will be based on essay questions submitted in class. Any student wishing to create their own essay question must receive permission by the instructor. The essay will provide an opportunity to explore one particular text examined in the course in relation to the political theorists studied. Emphasis will be placed on a close examination of a work of literature – ie: the characters, key themes and ideas, etc. Secondary sources are strongly discouraged; rather, the student should focus on the literature in question, as well as the primary texts of the theorists examined in this course. The essay will be graded on the strength of the academic argument and knowledge of the texts (both literature and of the political theorists), as well as on spelling, grammar and style.

Attendance will be taken at each class after the break (approximately midway through the scheduled lecture hours). Participation is based on constructive contribution to the class discussion.

The take-home exam is due on April 29, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. and will be based on essay questions distributed on the last day of class (Tuesday, April 1, 2008). The exam is due to my office (D685 Loeb Building) by 4:00 p.m. I will have office hours on April 29 in order to collect exams between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Any exams submitted after 4:00 p.m. must be placed in the Political Science Department's drop-box (located at B640 Loeb Building). Anything received in the drop-box after 4:00 p.m. will be deemed late and the appropriate late penalty applied.

Please note the following excerpts from Academic Regulation **2.4 Examination Regulations:**
In courses below the 4000-level, take-home examinations may not be assigned before the last day of classes and are due on the last day of the official examination period.

Note: The Political Science Department's drop box is intended to collect late assignments only or if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the essay directly to class or the exam directly to my office during the specified hours. You should be aware that the drop box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date. Items that are late will receive a five (5) per cent reduction for each day it is late. Weekends count as two days.

Extensions will only be granted for medical reasons or unforeseeable emergencies. Proper documentation must be provided.

Course Schedule

January 8 – Introduction, no required readings

January 15 – Sophocles, *Antigone*

- Plato, *Republic*, Book III

January 22 - William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

- Leo Strauss, *On Tyranny* (*Hiero* or *Tyrannicus* by Xenophon, "The Teaching Concerning Tyranny" by Leo Strauss)

January 29 – Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*

- Aristotle, *The Ethics* (Book IV, sections i-v, Book VI), *Politics* (Book IV, sections i-xiii)

February 5 – William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

- Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chapters XV-XIX, XXI)

February 12 – First essay due

- Charles Taylor, *The Malaise of Modernity* (Chapter 1)

February 19 – Reading Week, no class

February 26 – Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (Chapter VI, sections 35-43)

March 4 - Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Rappacini's Daughter", "The Artist of the Beautiful", "The Birthmark"

- James Schall, *At the Limits of Political Philosophy* (Part I, section 3 - "Modernity")

March 11 – William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*

- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters XIII-XIX

March 18 – Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

- Friederich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*, Section 1-4, 8,9,12; *Beyond Good and Evil*, Section 202; *Genealogy of Morals*, Section 23, 24

March 25 - Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*

- Hannah Arendt, "What is Authority?"

April 1 – J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*

- Exam questions assigned

April 29 – Take-home exam due

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.