

**PSCI 6301W**  
Political Theory II

Lectures : Monday 2:35 - 5:25 p.m.  
Instructor : Professor Lee MacLean  
Office: Loeb D686  
Office Hours: Monday 1-2:30 p.m.; Friday: 11:15-12:15 p.m.  
E-mail: Lee\_MacLean@carleton.ca  
Office tel.: 520-2600 ext. 4129.

This is a core course; it is designed to prepare students to write the PhD comprehensive exams in political theory. We will therefore study a selection of the most important works of political philosophy. This term, our focus will be on modern Western political theory from Hobbes to Nietzsche. The themes we will study will 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; justice; gender; religion; slavery; vain glory; violence; equality; liberty; liberalism; sovereignty and democracy.

We will note the contrast between Aristotle's claim that politics is a natural form of association and the teachings of Hobbes and Rousseau that political association is conventional. We will probe the implications of the nature/convention distinction (as well as these different conceptions of political association) for conceptions of justice and right.

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 absolutism, religious war and the rise of modern natural science and technology.

Objectives of the Course:

A first objective is to give students an understanding of the overall character of modern political thought. A second goal is to foster an understanding of the role of key thinkers in the development of modern political thought.

The course is also designed to help students learn the art of interpretation by practicing it. A related goal of the course is to teach the importance of careful reading. The course also aims to help students become clearer writers, to refine their skills of argumentation and to engage in critical thinking.

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

Texts:

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.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. On the Social Contract: With Geneva Manuscript and Political Economy. Trans. Judith Masters . Ed. Roger Masters Bedford Books, 1978.

John Locke. A Letter Concerning Toleration. Ed. James Tully. Hackett, 1983.

Immanuel Kant. Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals. Trans. Lewis White Beck. Prentice Hall. 1989.

Karl Marx. The Communist Manifesto. Ed. David McLellan. Oxford, 1992.

John Stuart Mill. The Subjection of Women. Ed. Susan Moller Okin. Hackett, 1988.

F. Nietzsche. Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future Trans. Walter Kaufmann. Vintage, 1989.

\*\*A required package of readings

Recommended:

Hannah Arendt. The Human Condition. Chicago, 1998.

Course Work:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Seminar summary-commentary (3-5 doubled-spaced pages)	10%
Short essay (5-7 double-spaced pages), due Feb. 11	30%
Course Essay (8-12 double-spaced pages), due April 7	50%

A two or three sentence statement of working thesis for Course Essay is not awarded points but is also a course requirement. It is due March 17.

The seminar summary-commentary is a short written response to important issues and questions discussed in the previous seminar. Each student is required to write one seminar summary-commentary of 3-5 doubled-spaced pages and to submit it at the beginning of the seminar the following week.

A description of the criteria that will be used in marking both of the essays will be handed out along with the short essay topic. The criteria will include: clarity, precision, organization, coherent justification, focus, provision of ample evidence and documentation.

Notes on writing the course essay: Since formulating research topics is a crucial part of the activity of scholarship, I would encourage you to formulate your own paper topic for the course essay. It should be about the treatment of a theme or issue in the works we study in their entirety, i.e., the works by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Marx or Nietzsche. You are free to write on a theme or topic in one or two of these works.

In order to formulate a thesis statement, you may find it useful to pose a 'thesis question,' the answer to which will be the thesis statement itself. Your paper should attempt to prove and support your thesis statement. The thesis statement and argument of the essay will likely evolve and change as you work. Therefore, to ensure that all the sections of your paper are relevant to its main argument and help to develop and explain it, you will likely need to draft a series of outlines. My best advice is: start early and print often. A working statement of your thesis for the course essay is due on Mon. March 17.

Policy regarding late papers: A penalty of one quarter point per day will be imposed on all late papers not excused by a doctor's certificate. 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.

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 and will result in deductions from the participation grade.

Class presentations: There are no required presentations for this course. But if you would like to give a 5-10 minute voluntary presentation (perhaps to test out ideas for your course essay) let me know in advance.

Please also note the following:

- Assignments cannot be submitted to the department by fax .
- Essays placed in the drop box after 4 p.m. are date stamped the following day.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- All components of course work (attendance and participation, seminar summary and commentary, short essay and course essay) must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Schedule of Readings:

Numbers refer to readings in the course pack.

Week of:

Mon. Jan. 7                      Introduction

- Mon. Jan. 14 -Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, Nietzsche's Preface and "On the Prejudices of Philosophers" and "The Free Spirit"  
 1) Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue" from The Peloponnesian War, (trans. T.E. Wick, Modern Library, 1982)  
 2) Aristotle, The Ethics, Book 5, Chapter 7 (trans. Joe Sachs, Focus Publishing, 2002).
- Mon. Jan. 21 3) Aristotle, The Politics, Book 1, Chapters 1 and 2 (trans. Carnes Lord, University of Chicago, 1984).  
 4) Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars, (Basic Books, 1977) Chapter 1;  
 -Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Chapters 13-21
- Mon. Jan. 28 Leviathan, Chapters 1-13
- Mon. Feb. 4 Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration  
 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, "What is Religious"
- Mon. Feb. 11 Short essay due. Rousseau, Second Discourse
- Feb. 18-22 Reading Week
- Mon. Feb. 25 On the Social Contract, Books 1 and 2
- Mon. March 3 On the Social Contract, Books 3 and 4
- Mon. March 10 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, Epigrams and Interludes, Natural History of Morals; Kant Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals.
- Mon. March 17 -Working thesis statement for essay due.  
 Recommended: Hegel, Hegel's Preface to the Phenomenology of Spirit Yirmiyahu Yovel, trans. (Princeton, 2005) (On Reserve).  
 Marx, Manifesto of the Communist Party.
- Mon. March 24 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, We Scholars;  
 Our Virtues; Peoples and Fatherlands;  
 Mill, The Subjection of Women, Chapter 1 (On Reserve)
- Mon. March 31 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil,  
 What is Noble.  
 5) Hannah Arendt, "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government" from her The Origins of Totalitarianism, (Harcourt Brace, 1951).  
 6) Judith Sklar, "The Liberalism of Fear," from Nancy Rosenblum, Ed. Liberalism and the Moral Life, (Harvard, 1989) pp. 21-38.
- Mon. April 7 Course Essay due. No class for Monday scheduled classes on this day.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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.