

FYSM 1602 (A)
Selected Topics in Political Science:
Reason, Rhetoric, and Political Discourse
Mondays and Wednesdays 8:35 – 9:55
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
Office: Loeb B644
Office Hours: Mondays 10:05-10:55, Wednesdays 10:05-10:55, or by appointment
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Course Description:

In democratic politics, individuals confront a wide array of complex moral and political questions through discourse with their fellow citizens. But not all forms of political discourse are equally conducive to good political outcomes. The most cursory survey of modern democratic politics will reveal that political discourse can often degenerate into partisan wrangling, factionalism, or worse.

This is a course in political theory that will engage students in an in-depth examination of questions about the nature of political discourse. Through studies of texts in the history of political thought – ranging from Plato to the works of contemporary theorists of public reason and deliberative democracy – the course will address questions about the relationship between reason and rhetoric, as well as questions about what forms of political deliberation are most likely to produce good democratic outcomes. The course will provide students with a solid grounding from which to pursue further studies in political theory.

Seminar Format:

Each seminar will begin with a discussion panel in which three students will deliver oral presentations on the readings for that particular week and three others will deliver prepared responses to the presentations. The presenters will be given a chance to respond to their discussants, after which the discussion will be opened up to the rest of the class.

Required Texts (Fall Term):

All texts are available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca Street)

- Plato, *Gorgias* (Hackett)
- Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric* (Penguin)
- Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)
- Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)
- Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary* (Liberty Fund)

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme (% of Final Grade):

Term Paper Outline	2.5% (Due on or before November 19)
Term Paper	20% (Due December 3)
2 Panel Presentations	6%
2 Discussant's Responses	4%
Mid-Term Exam	10% (October 22)
Seminar Participation	7.5%

Term Paper Outline:

Each student will be required to submit an outline of their term paper. The outline will be due on or before November 19. Full instructions will be provided separately.

Term Paper:

Each student will be required to submit a term paper of no more than 2000 words. The term paper will be due at the beginning of the final seminar session (December 3).

Students must submit a physical copy of their term paper directly to the professor. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Late term papers will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Students who are unable to submit their term paper on time may deposit it in the Departmental "Drop Box" (a mail slot in the wall) located in the corridor outside of room B640 Loeb. Assignments are retrieved once every business day at 4:00p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the professor. Assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped as received the next business day.

Panel Presentation:

Each panel presentation will be made up of three presenters and three discussants. The purpose of the panel presentations is for students to engage in critical discussions of the week's readings and to set the stage for the class discussion that will follow each panel. The presenters on each panel should identify central aspects of the arguments in the texts and raise questions about those arguments that can be addressed in the class discussion. Each student will be required to give two panel presentations per term.

Presenters will be required to submit a short written version of their panel presentation. Each paper should be no more than 500 words in length. The papers will be due at the

beginning of each panel discussion. Extensions for these papers will not be granted under any circumstances.

In addition, each presenter will be required to email their paper to their discussants no later than noon the day prior to their presentation. Failure to email a presentation to your discussant on time will result in a grade penalty.

Discussant's Response:

Each student will act as a discussant on two discussion panels during each term. The role of the discussant is to present a brief critical commentary on the presentations for that session. Presenters will email their presentations to the discussants no later than noon the day prior to their presentation. The discussants will not be required to submit written versions of their comments.

Mid-Term Exam:

The mid-term exam will be held in class on October 22. It will be 80 minutes in duration and will be comprised of essay and short answer questions.

Seminar Participation:

Each student's seminar participation grade will be based on the quality (not necessarily the quantity) of his or her participation in the seminar discussions. In order to earn a top grade for participation, a student must contribute positively to the learning atmosphere of the seminar. Among other requirements, this entails regular attendance, participation that is respectful of other students and the professor, and demonstration that the student has done the week's readings, thought critically about them in advance of the seminar session, and arrived prepared to pose questions and critically discuss the readings.

Seminars function best when the students and professor together create a dynamic built upon mutual trust and respect that fosters and welcomes scholarly critical debate. The development of such a dynamic is only possible when students attend the seminars regularly and when the composition of the seminar remains consistent throughout the term. For these reasons, attendance in this seminar is mandatory.

Late Penalties:

Written assignments (with the exception of the written versions of seminar presentations) submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of one third of a letter grade per day (**including Saturdays and Sundays**).

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious and **documented** medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Extensions will not be granted retroactively.

Seminar Schedule:

Sept. 10: Introduction to the course

Sept. 12: Reading and Writing in Political Theory

Rhetoric and Philosophy

Sept. 17: Plato, *Gorgias*

- Reading: p.1 – p.20 (“By the Dog, Gorgias, it’ll take more than a short session to go through an adequate examination of how these matters stand!”)

Sept. 19: Plato, *Gorgias*

- Reading: p.20 (“Really, Socrates?”) – p.50 (“since its usefulness hasn’t in any way become apparent so far.”)

Sept. 24: Plato, *Gorgias*

- Reading: p.51 (“Tell me, Chaerophon, is Socrates in earnest about this or is he joking?”) – p.71 (“what’s pleasant turns out to be different from what’s good.”)

Sept. 26: Plato, *Gorgias*

- Reading: p.72 (“I don’t know what your clever remarks amount to, Socrates.”) – p.92 (“it’ll be a wicked man killing one who’s admirable and good.”)

Oct. 1: Plato, *Gorgias*

- Reading: p.92 (“And isn’t that just the most irritating thing about it?”) – p.113 (“For the one is worthless, Callicles.”)

Oct. 3: Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*

- Reading: Chapters 1.1 – 1.3

Oct. 8: University Closed (No Seminar)

Oct. 10: Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*

- Reading: Chapters 1.4 – 1.8

Oct. 15: Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*

- Reading: Chapters 2.1 – 2.8

Oct. 17: Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*

- Reading: Chapters 2.9 – 2.17

Oct. 22: Mid-Term Exam

Judgment: Reason and the Passions

Oct. 24: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

- Reading: Introduction; Chapters 1-4 (pp.3-22)

Oct. 29: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

- Reading: Chapters 5-7 (pp.22-37)

Oct. 31: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

- Reading: Chapters 8-10 (pp.38-49; 50- 57)

Nov. 5: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

- Reading: Chapters 11; and 13-14 (pp.57-63; 74-88)

Nov. 7: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

- Reading: Chapters 15; and 17-18 (pp.89-100; 106-118)

Nov. 12: Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*

- Reading: Book 1

Nov. 14: Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*

- Reading: Book 2

Nov. 19: Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*

- Reading: Book 3 (ch.1, chs.12-18); Book 4 (chs.1-2, ch.7)

Nov. 21: Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*

- The panel discussion on Nov.21 will be preceded by a brief lecture on Hume's account of judgment. This lecture will provide essential context for the readings that will be discussed in the following seminar meetings.

- Reading: "Of Eloquence"

Nov. 26: Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*

- Reading: "That Politics May be Reduced to a Science"
"Of the First Principles of Government"
"Of the Origin of Government"

Nov. 28: Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*

- Reading: "Of Parties in General"
"Of the Parties of Great Britain"
"Of Superstition and Enthusiasm"

Dec. 3: Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*

- Reading: "Of the Original Contract"
"Of Passive Obedience"
"Of the Coalition of Parties"

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **(November 9th, 2012 for December examinations and March 8th, 2013 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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.