PSCI 2301A
History of Political Thought I
Lecture: Tuesdays, 2:35 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Janice Freamo
Office: Loeb B642
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., or by appointment
Email: janice.freamo@carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In polite company one should never speak of religion or politics…a recipe for rather dull conversation.

This course discusses both topics. It is designed to introduce you to some of the major questions that have been raised in the history of Western political thought, namely: What is the best way of life? What is justice? What is the best regime? Who should rule? It turns to Thucydides, Aristophanes, Plato, Aristotle, and St. Augustine for their responses. It is a course designed around the thoughts of dead white men, because, for better or worse, we are living the practical consequences of their ideas. By turning to these figures, it also asks you to reflect upon your prejudices (literally, pre-judgements) of their contributions. Are they to be overcome? Are they to be venerated? Should their ideas be catalogued like artefacts in a museum? The course will ask you to consider the possibility that the debates of the past might remain relevant to the present. It respects the longevity of these authors’ works and their continued relevance to the process of questioning our own time. Such respect is not merely the passing admiration of antiquated objects. It is grounded in the idea that their writings retain a living voice, or at least offer a space wherein dialogue continues to take place. In a course of this nature, my role is to be your guide—an intermediary between yourself and the text—to help you learn how to understand both the foreign and familiar qualities of this material, so that you might keep a lively conversation going on into the future.

OBJECTIVES
1. To give you new resources (in old texts) to reflect upon questions of political, ethical and moral importance today.
2. To help you read thoughtfully, write clearly, argue skilfully, and think critically.
3. To gain you basic familiarity with some of the seminal texts in ancient political thought.

REQUIRED TEXTS
All texts are available to purchase from the University Bookstore.
1. Coursepack PSCI 2301A – Fall 2017
   *A copy will be on reserve at the library.
   *You may also use the 2nd Edition of this book. This edition will be on reserve at the library.

**Please purchase the translations referenced above. Many are available, but not all are of good quality. The ones that have been selected have been selected thoughtfully, with you, the reader, in mind.
EVALUATION

20% Seminar Participation
10% Reading Quizzes
10% Short Reflection Paper (due Tuesday, October 3 by 2:35 p.m.)
30% Term Essay (due Tuesday, November 28 by 2:35 p.m.)
30% Final Exam (Date to be determined)

- **Seminar Participation (20%)**
  Seminars start on Tuesday, September 19th and run until Tuesday, December 5th. Please come prepared to thoughtfully discuss the readings each day. Part of the process of learning this material is learning how to engage in a dialogue. As the content of the course will make clear, the history of political thought is an extended engagement with differing opinions over time. We will aim to be respectful of the authors’ works, just as we will practice being respectful of others’ views. We are not practicing the skills of rhetorical domination, but learning from the process of dialogue to better understand ourselves and others. In doing so, the course shares in the sentiment behind Xenophon’s statement in his *Memorabilia*: “reading collectively with my friends, I go through the treasures of the wise men of old which they wrote and left behind in their books; and if we see something good, we pick it out; and we hold it as a great gain if we become friends with one another” (VI.14).

- **Reading Quizzes (10%)**
  Six quizzes will be given in lecture throughout the term. Quizzes will not be announced beforehand, and a missed quiz cannot be made up, though I will drop your lowest score. The quizzes also provide an incentive to attend classes regularly, and reflect the modest expectation that you will have completed the readings before coming to lecture.

- **Short Reflection Paper (10%)**
  You will be asked to reflect upon a passage excerpted from one of our readings. Your response should be 500 words (min. 450 to a max of 550), and should consider what is being said, how it is being said, and why it is of importance. The precise passage will be posted to cuLearn along with further instructions. The paper is to be submitted via cuLearn, and comments will be returned to you there as well.

- **Term Essay (30%)**
  The topic, along with further instructions, will be discussed in class and provided on-line. Term essays should be 2,000 words (min. 1,750 to a max. of 2,250). The assignment is to be submitted on-line via cuLearn. Please consult the Evaluation Rubric Chart on cuLearn for specifics on the evaluation criteria. Comments will be returned to students via cuLearn as well.

- **Final Exam (30%)**
  The exam will be cover material from the entire term, and will consist of essay and short-answer questions. It will be held during the scheduled examination period.

**Late Submission of Term Work**
The penalty for the late submission of work is 5% per day. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted unless I have granted a prior extension.

**Attendance Policy**
Your attendance is required at all lectures and seminars. Your readings for that day should accompany you to class.
LECTURE SCHEDULE

September 12: “What is the ‘History of Political Thought’?”
  - Recommended reading:

September 19: “Thucydides & the Peloponnesian War” – Seminars Begin
  - Required reading:
  - Recommended reading:

September 26: “The Politics of Tragedy & Comedy”
  - Required reading:
    Aristophanes. “Clouds,” in Four Texts on Socrates (p. 115-176).

October 3: “Plato’s Apology” & Short Reflection Paper Due
  - Required reading:
    Plato. “Apology of Socrates,” in Four Texts on Socrates (p. 63-97).

October 10: “Plato’s Republic I”
  - Required reading:

October 17: “Plato’s Republic II”
  - Required reading:

October 24: No Class – Fall Break

October 31: “Plato’s Republic III”
  - Required reading:

November 7: “Plato’s Republic IV”
  - Required reading:

November 14: “Plato’s Republic V”
  - Required reading:

November 21: “Plato’s Republic VI-X”
  - Recommended reading:
    Students may wish to complete the reading of the Republic but may do so at their own pace. The lecture will reference this content, but you will not be required to have read it for class.
November 28: “Aristotle’s Ethics” & Essays Due

- Required reading:

December 5: “Augustine & History” – Seminars End

- Required reading:
- Recommended reading:

Academic Accommodations
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>53-56</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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**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.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**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 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, visit [https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/) 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.