

Carleton University

Late Summer Term 2020

Department of Political Science

<https://carleton.ca/polisci/>

PSCI 2302 A
History of Political Thought
July 2 – August 14

Late Summer Term

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00pm appointments by email + teleconference

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Course Content

The Late Summer component of this course will introduce students to modern European political theory from the 16th Century English Civil War to later 19th century continental thought. The aim and objective of this course is to introduce students to foundational texts in the Western tradition and give them the opportunity to experience a firsthand engagement with political philosophy. To this end, students will be required to read extended selections from the original texts in order that they gain an understanding, not only of the content and controversies of the political questions interrogated therein; but will learn to do by doing.

This summer, PSCI 2302 will be delivered as an on-line course with lecture materials in the form of power-point presentations and Kaltura Capture recorded lectures with. The lectures series will be produced sequentially throughout the weeks of the term and students are responsible for accessing these materials at their own pace. Consultations with the Instructor will be by email and/or teleconference as required by the students. The Instructor will be available for office hours via teleconference on Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm, by appointment on a first come/first served basis. During high traffic periods (around assignment deadlines etc.) students must be prepared to be patient and/or flexible, but all will be accommodated even if I have to extend office hours past 2:00 pm.

Themes to be explored during the course of the summer reading and lecture series will be early modern formulations of the state of nature, the social contract, liberal

concepts of sovereignty, freedom and equality, the structure and purpose of civil government and the nature of revolution, concepts of progress and emancipation, private property, inequality, social revolution, historical materialism and nihilism.

Course Aims and Objectives

In political philosophy, the “how” of the process is equally as important as the “what” and students are expected to demonstrate in their essay and exam answers that they have struggled to define and rationally assess, as well as demonstrating a clear and competent grasp of the thoughts and ideas encountered in the reading and lecture material. The key aim of this course is to gain experience with the original texts to stimulate independent critical reflection and engagement with the foundational thought of the modern period.

Each essay will require the student to formulate an original premise that is then developed and supported by rational arguments with evidence and citations from the texts and then brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The objective is to gain understanding of key concepts and debates in the history of political thought and to learn to contribute independent and original ideas to these highly contested areas of study. Assessment of the Essay and Exam questions will be based on the demonstrated ability to clearly and competently grasp the concepts and arguments encountered in the reading and lecture material and analyze and critique them in a full and comprehensive manner. In addition, careful attention to writing style, the use of academic language, proper spelling, sentence structure and grammar will also be taken into consideration.

Pondering politics in a philosophical manner is to actually engage in the process of thinking as an end in itself. Philosophy is derived from the Greek for the love of wisdom; and to seek wisdom concerning politics is to encounter the limits and possibilities of human nature and its place in the world. As each thinker encounters his own search for the truth, he turns to his own reflections and experience in light of those who went before him. Political philosophy is a living tradition and this class is an invitation to join the great human conversation, in the words of Hannah Arendt in the eternal now, between past and future.

Texts (In Chronological Order of the Lecture Series):

The Following are the recommended textbooks available through order at the Carleton Bookstore. Other editions and/or free public access materials are acceptable, BUT those listed are the translations and edited versions that correspond with course reading requirements and lecture materials and any differences encountered in other texts are the student’s responsibility.

Sources:

1. Hobbes, Leviathan, with an Introduction by C.B. McPherson, Penguin Classics, First Published in 1968, ISBN 978014043157

2. Locke, "Two Treatises of Government" Cambridge U Press. ISBN: 9780521357302.
3. Rousseau, A Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, (Hackett Publishing) ISBN: 9780872201507
4. Kant, Political Writings, Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought, edited by Hans Reiss and Translated by H.B. Nisbet, 2nd Enlarged Edition, (Cambridge University Press; Cambridge) 1991, ISBN 9780521398374
5. The Marx-Engels Reader, Second Edition by Robert C. Tucker (W.W. Norton and Company, New York) 1978, ISBN 9780393090406
6. Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought, edited by Keith Ansell-Pearson, (Cambridge University Press; Cambridge) 1994, ISBN 9780521691655

As one of the key aims and objectives of this course is to encourage students in the validity and value of their own thoughts and ideas, the required readings in this class are taken directly from the original texts and not from derivative and secondary source material. While the use of simplified explanatory materials (whether from "short introductory texts" or websites) may seem tempting when confronted and disconcerted by unfamiliar styles, complex ideas and challenging material, this after all is actual point of the exercise and a necessary part of the learning process.

Secondary sources may be used to guide your own thought and reflection BUT Use and/or citation of secondary materials of any kind in essays or exams is strictly forbidden and will result in a failing grade.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

25% 1st Short Essay – 5 - 6 pages double-spaced (Mon. July 20, 2020)

25% 2nd Short Essay – 5 - 6 pages double-spaced (Wed. July 29, 2020)

25% 3rd Short Essay – 5 – 6 pages double-spaced (Wed. August 12, 2020))

25% Take Home Exam due (Wed. August 21, 2020)

The take-home exam will be posted on CuLearn on the last day of class (Aug 14) and will be due 7 days later (August 21, 2020) The exam will consist of three sections: Part A: identify and discuss key concepts (30%) Part B: Short Answer Questions (40%) and an Essay Question (30%)

Note on Cumulative Assessment in Calculation of Final Grade

Grades on all four (4) Course Components will contribute to the calculation of the final total to establish the final course grade, each weighted to 25%.

Failure to complete an individual course component will not result in a failing grade, BUT the grade of “0” will be entered for an incomplete component and calculated into the total of the final course grade.

Late Submission of Required Assignments:

***All assignments must be submitted via the on-line CuLearn Assignment submission system. Email submission is not permitted.**

Late Submission of Work: Late submission of work is permissible with medical documentation and/or the self-declaration form available on-line. Any extension may be granted due to extenuating circumstances which have been approved by the instructor, at least three days before the due date.

Late penalties are one-third letter grade per day late, i.e. a paper grade B+ is downgraded to B the first late day, followed by B- the next etc. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted without a prior extension being granted by the instructor.

General Schedule of Lectures and Required Readings:

Class 1: July 2 – 3 - Intro and Hobbes, *Leviathan pt. 1; Of Man*

Required Reading: Chapters: 1 – 5, 6 – 7, 9 – 11, 13 – 16

Class 2: July 6 – 8 - Hobbes, *Leviathan, pt. 2; Of Commonwealth*

Required Reading: Chapters: 17 – 20, 21, 24, 26, 28 – 31

Class 3: July 9 – 10 - Locke, *2nd Treatise of Civil Government*

Required Reading: Intro and Chapters 1 - 7

Class 4: July 13 - 15 - Locke, *2nd Treatise of Civil Government*

Required Reading: Chap. 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19

Class 5: July 16 - 17 - Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*

Required Readings: *Preface and First Discourse*

Class 6: July 20 - 22 – Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*

Required Reading: *Second Discourse*

Class 7: July 23 - 24 - Kant, *Political Writings*

Required Reading: *Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose*

Class 8: July 27 - 29 - Marx, *The Marx-Engles Reader*

Required Reading: *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*

Class 9: July 30 - 31 - Marx, The Marx-Engles Reader

Required Readings: *Manifesto of the Communist Party*

Class 10: August 3 - 5 - Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*

Readings: Nietzsche: Preface and 1st Essay Aphorisms 1 – 7, 10 – 11, 13 – 14, 16 – 17 and 2nd Essay Aphorisms 1 – 2, 6 - 12 16 – 25,

Class 11: August 6 - 7– Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*

Required Readings: 3rd Essay Aphorisms 1, 7, 9 – 13, 18, 23 – 28

Class 12: August 10 – 14 - Conclusion and Exam review

Academic Accommodations

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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).

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:

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

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/> 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.
