

PSCI 2302 (A)
History of Political Thought II

11:35 a.m. – 14:25 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

This course will be held remotely online (synchronous via Zoom; meeting links posted on Brightspace)

I General information

Instructor: Sacha Ghandeharian

On-line Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thursdays via Zoom (email for appointment)

Email: sacha.ghandeharian@carleton.ca

All email communication is to be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts, not personal emails. Please allow up to 2 working days for a response and note that emails with questions already answered on this outline/Brightspace may not receive a reply. Students are responsible for regularly checking their university email and Brightspace and for being aware of any posted information/announcements.

II Course description

The focus of this course is on Western political thought in the ‘modern’ age. The course will provide a survey of a selection of key thinkers and their texts ranging from the 16th to 19th century including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and others. Through these texts we will explore some of the foundational ideas and questions at the heart of political theorizing in modernity, such as: the role of power in politics, the notions of the state of nature/social contract, the nature of rights, and the legitimate role/ends of political authority. The goal of acquiring a knowledge and understanding of what these key figures in the history of political theory argue in their texts will intersect with the development of skills related to the critical reading of texts and academic writing. Prerequisite(s): PSCI 2301.

III Course Format

This is an online synchronous course. We will meet via Zoom during the assigned timeslots (see top of this outline) and according to the course schedule below. Class meetings will seek to provide students with additional context and explanation to support their reading and understanding of the key thinkers/texts and to prepare them for the assessments; however, this will ideally take place in an interactive and collaborative environment where students actively participate in the learning process. As such, the plan is for Zoom meetings to be a combination of lectures from the instructor on the day’s thinker/text and class discussion where students are encouraged to ask questions and share their perspectives on the material. To this end, students should always complete the readings before class.

IV Learning outcomes

- Gain knowledge of key thinkers/ideas from the modern period of the history of political thought
- Develop skills related to the reading and interpretation of primary texts in political thought
- Strengthen abilities related to academic writing and the communication of ideas and arguments

V Texts

The required readings will be linked to in the course schedule below and/or through the Library's ARES Reserves system which can be accessed via Brightspace. Therefore, no texts need to be purchased.

VI Evaluation at a glance

- Attendance (ongoing): 10%
- Participation (ongoing): 10%
 - 5% for in-class participation
 - 5% for discussion question posts
- Interpretive Essay 1 (July 22): 25%
- Interpretive Essay 2 (Aug 12): 25%
- Take-Home Final Exam (Aug 25): 30%

VII Evaluation in detail

Attendance (ongoing): 10%

Attending each class will be worth 1 mark up to a maximum of 10 marks. Students who attend at least 10 classes in full (i.e., joining the meeting on-time and staying until the end) can expect to receive full marks for attendance. As there are 12 planned classes, this method of grading attendance already provides 2 chances to 'make up' for an absence; therefore, further absences will not be excused.

Participation (ongoing): 10% (5% for in-class participation and 5% for discussion question posts)

It is expected that students will have questions/comments on the material throughout the term and will be encouraged to ask/share them during our class meetings; 5% of the participation mark will be for consistently engaging in these in-class discussions (classes 2-11). The other 5% of the participation mark will be for posting one clear and concise discussion question on the readings for each class (classes 2-11) on the corresponding Brightspace forum by 9:30AM on the day of that class; these discussion questions will help guide our in-class discussion. Participation marks are not as straightforward as attendance marks as students will be assessed on both the quantity *and* quality of contributions. Quality is judged based on things like the degree to which they demonstrate specific engagement with the readings, ability for critical reflection on the material, and clarity of expression. Discussion questions should be posted on-time, specific to the readings for the relevant class, have proper spelling/grammar, and should include a citation whenever a specific part of the reading is being referred to and/or directly quoted. For in-class discussion, the Zoom chat function should be limited to brief/concise questions on the material that students wish the instructor to respond to; otherwise, longer questions/comments should be made by using the 'raise hand' function and then presenting the question/comment.

Interpretive Essays (1st due July 22 and 2nd due August 12): 25% each X 2 for 50% total

The in-term assignments for this course will be in the form of 2 interpretive essays. Students will be given more specific instructions (with essay prompt) for these essays at least 2 weeks before the due dates and we will discuss how to write an interpretive essay in the first class. The purpose of these essays is to demonstrate your understanding of important aspects of the course material, as well as your ability to make an argument about that material through specific engagement with the relevant

readings (always with citation), and in an effectively organized and written academic essay. Please note that the focus is the specific readings and lectures for this course; therefore, the use of outside sources is prohibited. Please also note that failing to follow assignment instructions (communicated on this outline, posted to Brightspace, and/or as discussed in class) could result in a grade as low as a 0 (zero) on an assignment. Students should be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and avoid committing it.

Late policy for interpretive essays: Essays must be submitted to Brightspace by the due date. Late interpretive essays will be accepted, but only if they are submitted to Brightspace within four (4) calendar days of the due date and will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Late essays will not be accepted past four (4) calendar days and a grade of 0 (zero) will be assigned. Extensions/deferrals are at the discretion of the instructor and in accordance with university policy. Requests for extension/deferral must meet the following three criteria to receive consideration: 1) it must be for a legitimate reason (typically, serious illness or bereavement); 2) it must be made in writing (via email to the instructor) at least 24hrs before the due date; 3) the emailed request must include a proposed revised due date. Students should be prepared to provide supporting documentation upon request. Requests submitted past 24hrs in advance of the deadline will only be considered if it is a case of documented emergency that made it impossible/unreasonable to make the request in advance, and, even if this is the case, the request must be made no later than three (3) working days of the due date to receive consideration.

Take-Home Final Exam (due August 25): 30%

The Take-Home Final Exam will be posted to Brightspace by the last day of term and then due (via Brightspace) on the last day of the exam period. More information about the final exam will be given as we approach the end of term, but students should consider any material covered in the course (lectures and readings) as an eligible basis for potential exam questions. The exam will be 'open book' (course materials only; outside sources are not allowed), must be completed independently (no collaboration), and students should provide citations whenever referring to the readings. The due date for the final exam is determined by the university and therefore the instructor cannot provide extensions and cannot accept late exams. The only way to submit an exam past the stated due date is to apply and be approved by the Registrar's Office for an exam deferral. It is the responsibility of students to apply for such a deferral via the Registrar's Office's exam deferral application, according to the university's policies, and, if approved, to then submit their final exam according to the university's deadline for deferred exams.

VIII Course schedule

Please note that while the below schedule is the plan, adjustments may be made based on the pace at which we move through the material or the possibility of unforeseen events. If this is the case, students will be kept informed in a timely manner via Brightspace.

Week 1

Class 1 (July 4) – Introduction to Political Theory in the Modern Age (optional reading: Part III (“The Modern Solutions”) of Leo Strauss’s essay “What is Political Philosophy?”).

ARES: Strauss, Leo. 1959. *What is Political Philosophy? and Other Studies*. Glencoe: Free Press.

Class 2 (July 6) – Machiavelli’s *The Prince* (Dedication, Chapters 7-9, 15-19)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/machiavelli1532.pdf>

Week 2

Class 3 (July 11) – Hobbes’s *Leviathan* I (Introduction, Chapters 6, 10-11, 13-14)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part1.pdf>

Class 4 (July 13) – Hobbes’s *Leviathan* II (Chapters 15, 17-19, 21)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part2.pdf>

Week 3

Class 5 (July 18) – Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government* (Chapters 1-3, 5, 7-9)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1689a.pdf>

Class 6 (July 20) – Rousseau’s *Discourse on Inequality* (Preface, First Part)

ARES: Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 2016. *A Discourse on Inequality*. New York: Philosophical Library.

Interpretive Essay 1 Due July 22 before 11:59PM via Brightspace dropbox

Week 4

Class 7 (July 25) – Rousseau’s *Discourse on Inequality* (Second Part)

ARES: Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 2016. *A Discourse on Inequality*. New York: Philosophical Library.

Class 8 (July 27) – Rousseau’s *Social Contract* (Books 1-2)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/rousseau1762.pdf>

Week 5

August 1 Holiday (No Class)

Class 9 (August 3) – Kant’s *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Chapters 1-2 up to page 35)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1785.pdf>

Week 6

Class 10 (August 8) – Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Letter, Intro, Chapter 2)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/wollstonecraft1792.pdf>

Class 11 (August 10) – Marx and Engels’s *Communist Manifesto*

ARES: Marx, Karl. 1994. *Selected Writings*. Translated by Lawrence H. Simon. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Interpretive Essay 2 Due August 12 before 11:59PM via Brightspace dropbox

Week 7

Class 12 (August 15) – Review and Discussion of Final Exam

Take-home Final Exam Due August 25 before 11:59PM via Brightspace dropbox

Appendix

Covid-19 Information

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) When accessing campus you must fill in the [COVID-19 Screening Self-Assessment in cuScreen](#) each day before coming to campus. You must also check-in to your final destination (where you plan on being longer than 15 minutes) within a building using the [QR location code](#).

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton’s COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University’s COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton’s

COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

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 accommodation: 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 accommodation: 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.

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, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit carleton.ca/pmc.

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 engage in student activities 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.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. 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.

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 includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Intellectual property

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

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

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 Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.