

**PSCI 2302 (A)**  
**History of Political Thought II**  
Wednesdays, 10:35 – 12:25pm  
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt  
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**Course Description:**

This course offers an introduction to some of the key texts and debates that shaped the development of modern Western political thought. The central questions that will animate our discussions concern political authority: What makes political authority legitimate or illegitimate? Why do individuals obey their political leaders? Why and to what extent should they do so? In exploring these questions, we will encounter and engage with important discussions of human nature, rights, liberty, equality, autonomy, commerce, and other central features of politics that preoccupied many of the modern thinkers.

The readings for this term cover a period from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Though far from exhaustive, these readings offer an introduction to some of the essential debates that characterised Western political thought during that period. In particular, these readings introduce four distinct sets of answers to our guiding questions regarding political authority. The first is found in the social contract tradition of political thought. The second grounds political authority in custom, tradition, and convention. The third emphasises the absence of exploitation as the primary measure of a political society's legitimacy. Finally, the utilitarian tradition prioritises the maximization of utility.

The primary objectives of this course will be: 1) to introduce students to studying the history of political thought; 2) to aid them in developing the critical and analytical skills necessary for developing their own interpretations of particular texts, as well as for formulating their own original contributions to debates in political theory. Special attention will be paid to helping students develop their writing skills.

**Required Text:**

Available at Haven Books (43 Seneca Street)

- ♦ Steven M. Cahn, ed., *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

## **cuLearn:**

Important course announcements and course materials (syllabus, discussion questions for tutorials, essay questions) will be posted on cuLearn. Please ensure that you have access to cuLearn and consult it regularly.

## **Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:**

- ◆ Tutorial Participation 10%
- ◆ Essay #1 25% **(Due Feb. 28)**
- ◆ Essay #2 25% **(Due April 4)**
- ◆ Final Examination 40%

## **Tutorial Participation**

Tutorial participation is an integral component of this course. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions of their TA, engage critically with the course readings and, through discourse with their fellow students, develop better and more nuanced understandings of the texts that we will be covering in the course.

Each student's tutorial participation grade (worth 10% of their final grade) will be based on the quality (not necessarily the quantity) of his or her participation in the tutorial discussions. In order to earn a top grade for participation, a student must contribute positively to the learning atmosphere of his or her tutorial group. Among other requirements, this entails regular attendance, participation that is respectful of other students and of the TA, and demonstration that the student has done the week's reading, thought critically about it in advance of the tutorial session, and arrived prepared to pose questions and to critically discuss the reading with his or her fellow students.

## **Essays**

Each student will be required to submit two short essays during the term. Each will count for 25% of the student's final grade. Essays will be subject to an upper page limit of 6 double-spaced pages (12 point font, margins of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch).

Students will be given a choice of questions for each essay. The essay questions will be posted on cuLearn. The questions will call upon students to engage directly with the texts under study.

The first essay will be due at the beginning of lecture on **FEBRUARY 28**. The second essay will be due at the beginning of lecture on **APRIL 4**. Students must submit physical copies of their essays. **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Late essays will be assessed a penalty (see below).

### **Late Penalties:**

Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). Essays submitted on the due date but after the beginning of lecture will be considered late and will be assessed a penalty of 1.5%.

Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4:00 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the professor.

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious and **documented** medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Requests for extensions submitted after the due date will usually not be considered. It is the students' responsibility to manage their time effectively.

### **Final Examination**

The final examination will be held during the regularly scheduled exam period (April 14-26). Students should not make travel arrangements prior to February 16, when the university will release the April examination schedule.

The exam will be cumulative (i.e. all material covered in the course will be examinable). The final examination will count for 40% of each student's final grade.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that involves presenting another person's ideas, arguments, or words as one's own either through deliberate fraud or on account of inaccurate or improper documentation. The penalties for plagiarism are very severe.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their professor if they have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

### **Academic Support:**

Carleton University offers a range of excellent services for students seeking various forms of academic support.

If you require research, computer or learning support services, please contact Carleton Learning Support Services at <http://carleton.ca/lss/>.

For help with academic writing and related issues, please contact the Writing Tutorial Service (<http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/>).

### **Course Schedule:**

Unless otherwise specified, all page references listed below refer to *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

**Week 1 (Jan. 10):** Introduction to Modern Political Thought; distribution of syllabus

**Week 2 (Jan. 17):** Hobbes, *Leviathan* (pp.312-321)

In addition, please read chapters 2-5 of part 1 of *Leviathan*. (These chapters are available online at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm#link2HCH0002> or at <http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/869>)

**Week 3 (Jan. 24):** Hobbes, *Leviathan* (pp.321-343)

**Week 4 (Jan. 31):** Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (pp.365-384)

**Week 5 (Feb. 7):** Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (ch.384-393)

Rousseau, *Of the Social Contract* (pp.437-446)

**Week 6 (Feb. 14):** Rousseau, *Of the Social Contract* (pp.446-463)

**Week 7 (Feb. 21):** No Lecture (Winter Break)

**Week 8 (Feb. 28):** Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France; Speech to the Electors of Bristol* (pp.606-619)

**First Essay Due**

**Week 9 (March 7):** Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals; Of Parties in General; Of the Original Contract; Of the Origin of Government* (pp.470-487)

**Week 10 (March 14):** Marx and Engels, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844; The German Ideology* (pp.701-714)

**Week 11 (March 21):** Marx and Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party; A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy; Value, Price and Profit* (pp.714-737)

**Week 12 (March 28):** Mill, *Utilitarianism; On Liberty* (pp.741-755)

**Week 13 (April 4):** Mill, *On Liberty* (pp.774-795)  
**Second Essay Due**

**Academic Accommodations**

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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](mailto: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](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 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 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. 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:

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.

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