

PSCI 3300A. Politics and Literature
Fall 2024
Professor Andrea Chandler
Department of Political Science
Carleton University
Tuesday, 8:35-11:25 a.m.

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Course Description:

This course will examine ways in which political themes are illustrated in selected works of literature, including novels, short stories, poetry and at least one play. We will consider ways in which prose works can communicate political ideas, imagine a different kind of government than what exists now, and provide a window into human experience of global change. The course will focus on deep analysis of selected works of literature, written by authors from various parts of the globe. These works grapple with diverse themes such as corruption, nationalism, gender politics, war and occupation. Some assigned works are written by well-known authors; others shed light on issues or countries that receive less attention in the West.

This course is best suited to students who love to read fiction, as much of our class time will be spent discussing and analyzing assigned readings in detail. It will be essential to keep up with the weekly reading, and students will be expected to share their insights with peers in the class.

This is an in-person course

Learning objectives of the course include:

- To gain insight into various political problems found within a broad range of contexts in time and space, through fiction,
- To consider the merits and limitations of fiction as a research source for political scientists,
- To build skills for reading texts in depth and detail, and to be able to compare themes across a group of texts,
- To gain confidence with analytical writing skills, working towards an enhanced ability to communicate one's grasp of a complex text succinctly, and to analyze the political lessons offered by the author.

Books/Required Reading:

The following required works of fiction have been ordered from the University Bookstore.

- Nikolay Gogol. *The Government Inspector*. Penguin Classics (*The Government Inspector and other Russian Plays*, Trans and ed. Joshua Cooper, 1972).

- Lydia Chukovskaya. *Sofia Petrovna*. Bath, UK: Persephone Books, 2023.
- Chinua Achebe. *No Longer at Ease*. Portsmouth, NJ: Heneimen, 1960.
- Sarah Gallardo, *January*. (1958) Trans. Frances Riddle and Maureen Shaughnessy. Brooklyn, NY: Archipelago Books, 2023.
- Waubgeshig Rice, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*. Toronto: ECW Press, 2018.
- Albert Camus, *The Plague*. Trans. Robin Buss. Penguin Books, 2001.

Students, if you find other editions of books (for example from used bookstores), note that translations/page numbers may be different from those referred to in class, so you are encouraged to speak to the professor. Also, if you wish to read a particular work in the original language rather than in English translation, please let the professor know.

In addition to the list above, there are also additional required readings available on the Carleton Library Reserve system (ARES). In Brightspace, click on Tools--ARES--View Item.

Schedule of Topics and Readings.

Week 1 (September 10) Introduction; watch part of film in class:
Germinal. 1994. Based on novel by Emile Zola. eOne Films. Claude Berri, director. Available online through Criterion-on-Demand.

Week 2. (September 17) Finish film *Germinal* in class; Political Satire.
Required Reading: Nikolai Gogol, *The Government Inspector*, from beginning to end of Act Two.

Week 3. (September 24) Political Satire, continued:
Required Reading: Gogol, *The Government Inspector*, from Act Three to end.

Week 4 (October 1). Repression and Censorship
Required Reading: Lydia Chukovskaya. *Sofia Petrovna*. Bath, UK: Persephone Books, 2023.
Müller, Herta. "Censorship of the word does not end on paper, but on the skin of human beings," Trans. Kate McNaughton, *Index on Censorship*, 47, 3 (2018): 67-69.
doi:10.1177/0306422018800404

Week 5. (October 8) National Independence and Decolonization; **In-Class Test 1**
Required Reading: Chinua Achebe. *No Longer at Ease*. Portsmouth, NJ: Heneimen, 1960. Chapters 1-8.

Week 6. (October 15) National Independence and Decolonization, continued;
Required Reading: Achebe. *No Longer at Ease*, chapters 9-19.

Ghassan Kanafani, "The Death of Bed number 12." In Leo Hamalian and John D. Yohannan, eds. *New Writing from the Middle East* Trans. Denys Johnson-Davies. New York: Frederick Unger Publishing, 1978.

Week 7. (October 29) Oppression and Exclusion

Required Reading: Sarah Gallardo, *January*. (1958) Trans. Frances Riddle and Maureen Shaughnessy. Brooklyn, NY: Archipelago Books, 2023. Chapters 1-5.

Week 8 (November 5). Identity and Community

Required Reading: *January*, chapters 6-11.

George Eliott Clarke. "The Apocryphah of Whylah Falls," and introduction by Daniel Samson. *Left History*, vol. 2, no. 1, 1994, pp. 71-91.

Week 9 (November 12) Identity and Community, continued; **In-Class Test 2**

Required Reading: Rice, *The Moon over the Crusted Snow*. Part I.

David Grossman, "The Desire to be Gisella," *Writing in the Dark*, New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2008, pp. 29-58.

Week 10 (November 19) Social Crisis and Disorientation

Required Reading: *The Moon over the Crusted Snow*, continued. Part II and Epilogue. Camus, *The Plague*. Parts I and II.

Week 11 (November 26) Social Crisis and Disorientation, continued.; **In-Class Test 3.**

Required Reading: Camus, *The Plague*. Parts III, IV and V.

Talwar, Sneha. "Identifying the Absurd during the COVID-19 Pandemic through the Lens of Albert Camus' *The Plague*." *New Literaria*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2021, pp. 57-64.

<https://doi.org/10.48189/nl.2021.v02i2.008>.

Week 12 (December 3) War and its Impacts

Required Reading: Amelina, Victoria, and Stephen Komarnyckyj. "Ukraine's Disappearing Ink." *Index on Censorship* 53, no. 1 (April 1, 2024): 94-100. (Short story by Amelina with introduction by Komarnyckyj).

Vuong, Ocean. "Two Poems." *Boston Review*, winter 2021, available online through Carleton Library. <https://www.bostonreview.net/articles/two-poems-ocean-vuong/>

Abdul Wahab Al-Bayati, "Why are we in Exile the Refugees Ask" In Leo Hamalian and John D. Yohannan, eds. *New Writing from the Middle East* New York: Frederick Unger Publishing, 1978 p, 66. (Poem: only one page. Not available at Carleton Library).

Evaluation:

Class Attendance and Participation: 15%. Students are expected to attend every class and participate in discussion. For 50% of the mark for attendance and participation, each student will be expected, at least three times during the term, to either: a) Read out loud to the class a passage

of an assigned reading as requested by the professor, b) present to the class orally a short answer (approx. one paragraph) to a question assigned in advance on the day's reading.

Midterm tests

Tests will be *closed-book* and written *by hand* in class, to last one hour during the second half of class. (Students with approved accommodations through the Paul Menton Centre, please check Ventus for arrangements appropriate to your case).

15% Test 1: October 8. Based on all course material up to and including October 1.

15% Test 2: November 12. Based on all course material up to and including November 5.

15% Test 3: November 26. Based on all course material up to and including November 19.

Each test will be evaluated based on the demonstration of: comprehension of all readings assigned during the dates indicated, with a grasp of key overall arguments or themes made in the work(s); ability to integrate and analyze the authors' exploration of particular themes across texts; support for arguments made with details from the works; appropriate understanding of the context in which the works were written; and clear and concise written expression.

Final Exam (during the scheduled examination period in December): 40%

The final exam will assess knowledge of all course material (lectures, discussions and required readings) covered throughout the term. In addition to the assigned readings, each student is expected to read one of three choices of a longer novel. The final exam will include a specific question that will relate the novel that they have chosen to material covered in class (lectures and assigned readings). The three choices are:

Serhiy Zhadan. *The Orphanage*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 2021.

Orhan Pamuk. *Snow*. New York: Vintage, 2005.

Franz Kafka, *The Trial*. (1937). New York: Knopf, 1956.

The exam will be evaluated based on the student's ability to demonstrate a grasp of key overall arguments or themes made in the work(s); ability to integrate and analyze the authors' exploration of particular themes across texts; support for arguments made with details from the works; appropriate understanding of the context in which the works were written; and clear and concise written expression.

Additional information about course requirements: In tests and in the final exam, students are expected to show that they have done the expected reading *in its entirety, themselves*. The use of ChatGPT or other AI programs to read fiction is not acceptable. Such use is prohibited for this course (see page 7 of this course outline), and in any case AI is, at present, very bad at reading fiction and very bad at writing about fiction. Students who miss class due to illness or other circumstances are encouraged to speak to the professor about a plan to make up the missed work. A student may request a make-up test if they miss a test due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, however, if the request is granted, they will need to speak to the professor to arrange an appropriate time and place. No make-up tests will be scheduled for after the last day of class in the term.

Communicating with the professor: Students are encouraged to come to the professor's office hours to discuss issues. One short face-to-face conversation can often produce a better understanding more quickly than multiple exchanges of e-mails. Do not hesitate to contact the professor by e-mail, but the professor keeps her email replies very brief and aims to reply within 1-2 days. For detailed questions about course material, it is best to have a spoken conversation in real time. Contact the professor if you wish to have a phone conversation or Zoom chat outside office hours.

Appendix

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- ***Carleton Resources:***

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

- ***Off Campus Resources:***

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

Deferred final exams, which must be applied for at the RO, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. The course outline must stipulate any minimum standards for good standing that a student must meet to be entitled to write a deferred final exam.

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

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

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 [click here](#).

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 details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will 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. For more information, please [click here](#).

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic

Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (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.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy 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, websites, 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question 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).

Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit.

If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. 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 the 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