

PSCI 3312 (A)
Enlightenment Political Thought
Wednesdays, 8:35 – 11:25pm
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:35-12:25, Thursdays 10:35-11:25, or by appointment (in-person or Zoom)
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Course Description

We often hear the refrain that liberal democratic citizens today are children of the Enlightenment. But what, precisely, was “the Enlightenment” and what might it mean to consider ourselves its children? On these questions, no general agreement exists. Some understand the Enlightenment in positive terms as an eighteenth-century trans-national philosophical movement defined by its commitments to reason, toleration, and to robust conceptions of equality and rights. Others view the Enlightenment in similarly trans-national and philosophical terms, but as a predominantly destructive, homogenizing, Eurocentric movement. Some scholars resist singular conceptions of the Enlightenment, instead emphasising distinct national varieties of Enlightenment or focusing on identifying key debates within the Enlightenment and on illuminating the historical contexts that impacted their development.

In this course, we will approach Enlightenment political thought by combining historical and philosophical perspectives with an aim to developing greater appreciation and critical understanding of the extraordinary intellectual developments in eighteenth-century Scotland that we now call the Scottish Enlightenment. Over the course of a relatively short period of time, this small country that entered the eighteenth century contending with significant economic hardships, produced a startling array of philosophers, historians, scientists, and other authors whom we recognize today as pioneers in fields as diverse as philosophy, geology, history, engineering, mathematics, medicine, economics,

political theory, chemistry, and sociology. Many of these individuals knew each other well. Some were close friends.

Over the course of the term, we will read works by David Hume, Adam Smith, and Adam Ferguson, three authors who are particularly notable for how they thought and wrote about politics in an increasingly commercial world, a new context that raised questions about the continued relevance and adequacy of prevailing conceptions of political community, commerce, governance, despotism, and other central elements of social and political life. In studying these three authors, students will gain insights into some distinctive elements of Scottish Enlightenment political thought while also gaining familiarity with some of the important debates that characterized the period.

The course will be delivered in person. Each meeting of the course will include a lecture and a less formal discussion, based in part on questions that students in the class will submit in advance (see below on p.3 under “Participation”)

The principal learning objectives for the course are:

- 1) For students to develop knowledge and understanding of some principal texts and contexts of the Scottish Enlightenment.
- 2) For students to critically examine the texts under study.
- 3) For students to identify and critically examine key concepts and key debates in Scottish Enlightenment political thought.
- 4) For students to distinguish elements of Scottish Enlightenment political thought from other theories of politics with which they are already familiar.
- 5) For students to develop their critical and analytical skills through written assignments and in-class discussions.

Evaluation at a Glance

- Essay (max. 750 words)	10%	(Due October 16)
- Term Paper (max. 3000 words)	35%	(Due December 8)
- Final Exam	35%	(During December Exam Period)
- Participation	20%	

Evaluation in Detail

Essay: 10%

Each student will write one short essay (maximum 750 words in length). The essays will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on October 16. Students will answer one question related to the writings of Hume. No supplementary research will be required for these essays. The assignment will be distributed through Brightspace.

Term Paper: 35%

Each student will submit one term paper (maximum 3000 words in length). The papers will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on December 8. This assignment will call for research beyond the assigned course readings. These assignments will be distributed through Brightspace and will be discussed in greater detail in class.

Final Exam: 35%

Each student will write one Final Exam during the University's formally scheduled December exam period (Dec. 10-22). The University will release the exam schedule on October 6. Students are advised to refrain from making holiday travel plans until after that date.

The Final Exam will be cumulative and comprised of essay questions. The content and form of the exam will be discussed in greater detail during the term.

Participation: 20%

In advance of the meetings of the class in weeks 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, each student will have the opportunity to submit one discussion question through Brightspace. The questions must be based on the readings for that week. They will structure parts of the discussion in class.

Students will receive full credit for every discussion question that they submit (maximum one per assigned week). Participation grades in the course will be calculated out of 20 marks (9 discussion questions and attendance in 11 classes – attendance will be taken in every class except for weeks 1 and 14). Participation grades will be discussed in detail in class on Sept.6.

Summary

Students are required to:

- 1) Complete assigned readings prior to each class
- 2) Attend weekly meetings of the class and submit one discussion question in advance of assigned weeks (20%)
- 3) Submit one short essay (10%)
- 4) Submit one term paper (35%)
- 5) Submit one final exam (35%)

Readings:

All of the readings for this course are available in electronic format online and free of charge.

Works by David Hume are available through the Past Masters database (accessible through the MacOdrum Library website) and on the website www.davidhume.org. Works

by Adam Smith are available through Past Masters. Adam Ferguson's *An Essay on the History of Civil Society* is available through ARES. If you would prefer to read this work in print, some copies will also be available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

For students who would prefer to purchase print copies of other texts that we will read this term, the following is a list of recommended editions. If you have any questions about particular editions, please ask the professor.

Recommended Print Editions of the Texts:

- David Hume. *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary*. Edited by Eugene F. Miller (Indianapolis, IN.: Liberty Fund, 1987).
- David Hume. *The History of England from the Invasion of Julius Caesar to The Revolution in 1688*. 6 volumes. Foreward by William B. Todd (Indianapolis, IN.: Liberty Fund, 1983).
- Adam Ferguson. *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*. Edited by Fania Oz-Salzberger (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- Adam Smith. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Edited by D.D. Raphael and A.L. Macfie (Liberty Fund: Indianapolis, 1982).
- Adam Smith. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 2 vols. Edited by R.H. Campbell and A.S. Skinner (Liberty Fund: Indianapolis, 1981).

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 6): Introduction to the Course

Week 2 (Sept. 13): What was the Scottish Enlightenment?

- Readings:
 - o Roger L. Emerson and Mark G. Spencer, "Several Contexts of the Scottish Enlightenment" in *The Cambridge Companion to the Scottish Enlightenment*, 2nd Ed., edited by Alexander Broadie and Craig Smith (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019): 9-32.
 - o David Daiches, "The Scottish Enlightenment" in *The Scottish Enlightenment 1730-1790: A Hotbed of Genius*, edited by David Daiches, Peter Jones, and Jean Jones (Edinburgh: The Saltire Society, 1996): 1-41.
 - o Available online: ARES (in Brightspace)

Week 3 (Sept. 20): David Hume

- Readings: David Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*
 - o “That Politics may be Reduced to a Science”; “Of the First Principles of Government”; “Of the Origin of Government”; “Of Parties in General”; “Of Civil Liberty”; “Of the Original Contract”; “Of the Coalition of Parties”
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum library website) or at www.davidhume.org

Week 4 (Sept. 27): David Hume

- Readings: David Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*
 - o “Of the Rise and Progress of the Arts and Sciences”; “Of Commerce”; “Of Refinement in the Arts”
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum library website) or at www.davidhume.org

Week 5 (Oct. 4): David Hume

- Readings: David Hume, *The History of England*
 - o The trial and execution of Charles I
 - Vol. V, Chapter LIX, pp. 532-48 (Begin at “The more to quiet the minds of men...”)
 - o Discussion of manners, arts and science during the reign of James II
 - Vol. VI, Chapter LXXI, pp. 530-45
 - o Appendix to the Reign of Elizabeth I
 - Vol. IV, Appendix III, pp. 354-86
 - o Hume’s final words on the history of England
 - Vol. II, Chapter XXIII, pp. 518-25
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum library website)

Week 6 (Oct. 11): Research and Writing Workshop

- Reading: George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language”
 - o Available online: <https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/politics-and-the-english-language/>
 - o **ESSAY due October 16**

Week 7 (Oct. 18): Adam Ferguson

- Readings: Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - o Parts I and II (excluding sections 2, 5, and 7 of Part I)
 - o Available online: ARES

Week 8: (Oct. 25): Fall Break

- NO CLASS

Week 9 (Nov. 1): Adam Ferguson

- Readings: Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - o Parts III and IV
 - o Available online: ARES

Week 10 (Nov. 8): Adam Ferguson

- Readings: Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - o Parts V and VI
 - o Available online: ARES

Week 11 (Nov. 15): Adam Smith

- Readings: Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*
 - o I.i; I.iii; II.ii; IV
 - Part I, Sections 1 and 3
 - Part II, Section 2
 - Part IV
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum library website)

Week 12 (Nov. 22): Adam Smith

- Readings: Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
 - o Introduction; I.i-ii; I.viii; II.iii
 - Introduction and Plan of the Work
 - Book I, Chapters 1-2 and 8
 - Book II, Chapter 3
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum library website)

Week 13 (Nov. 29): Adam Smith

- Readings: Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
 - o III.i; III.iv; IV.ii; IV.iii.c; IV.ix.48-52; V.i.f.48-61; V.i.g.3-16; V.i.i.1-6.
 - Book III, Chapters 1 and 4
 - Book IV, Chapter 2
 - Book IV, Chapter 3, Part 2
 - Book IV, Chapter 9, Paragraphs 48-52
 - Book V, Chapter 1, Part 3, Article 2, Paragraphs 48-61
 - Part V, Chapter 1, Part 3, Article 3, Paragraphs 3-16
 - Part V, Chapter 1, Conclusion of the Chapter
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum library website)

Week 14 (Dec. 6): Review and Concluding Discussion

- **TERM PAPER Due December 8**

Key Dates: Summary

Date	Topic	Assignment
September 6	Intro to the Course	
September 13	What was the Scottish Enlightenment?	
September 20	Hume: <i>Essays</i>	
September 27	Hume: <i>Essays</i>	
October 4	Hume: <i>History of England</i>	
October 11	Research and Writing Workshop	
October 16		Essay Due
October 18	Ferguson: <i>Essay on the History of Civil Society (I & II)</i>	
October 25	No Class: Fall Break	
November 1	Ferguson: <i>Essay on the History of Civil Society (III & IV)</i>	
November 8	Ferguson: <i>Essay on the History of Civil Society (V & VI)</i>	
November 15	Smith: <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>	
November 22	Smith: <i>Wealth of Nations</i>	
November 29	Smith: <i>Wealth of Nations</i>	
December 6	Review and Concluding Discussion	
December 8		Term Paper Due

December – Exam Period (Dec. 10-22)		Final Exam
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Course Policies

Copyright: Lectures and course materials (including any PowerPoint presentations, videos, or similar materials) are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not allow others to reproduce, distribute, or make available lecture notes and/or course materials, whether publicly or for commercial purposes, without the professor’s express written consent.

Citations and Bibliography

All written assignments must include a full list of sources used. In addition, students must indicate all references to the texts in footnotes or in-text citations. You are free to use the citation style of your choice (APA, Chicago, etc.), so long as you employ your chosen style consistently and correctly throughout your assignment. For more details on how to provide proper citations, please consult the MacOdrum Library website:

<https://library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources>

As a university student, you are a member of a community of scholars in this class, at Carleton University and, more generally, with others around the world. A core ethical principle that undergirds all of these scholarly communities is the responsibility of every scholar to give credit to others for the work that they have produced and to refrain from taking credit for work that is not their own. This ethical principle is very democratic. It applies equally to the internationally-renowned scholar whose list of published works runs for many pages and to the first-year university student, fresh out of high school, who has yet to publish their first piece of writing.

If you have any questions at all about your obligations as a member of these scholarly communities, please consult with your professor. Every student should familiarize themselves with Carleton University’s Academic Integrity Policy

(<https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-2021.pdf>).

For examples of what constitutes plagiarism and for details of possible consequences for students found to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy, please see below (p.10) and consult the University’s page on academic integrity:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Oral Examinations of Written Assignments

The professor reserves the right to examine any student in-person on the content of written work they have submitted in the class.

Late Penalties & Extensions

Written assignments (essays and term papers) submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 4% per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). The professor will accept late submissions up to seven days past the deadline. Assignments that are more than seven days late will not be accepted except in cases where the student has received an extension from the professor.

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Please note that having assignments and/or exams due in other courses will not be considered sufficient grounds to justify an extension in this course. Requests for extensions submitted after the due date will usually not be considered.

If you are ill or have any other legitimate reason for requesting an extension, it is your responsibility to contact the professor as early as possible. Do not assume that you will receive an extension until one has been granted by the professor. Students should be prepared to provide proper documentation to support their request for an extension.

At any point, if you are experiencing mental health-related challenges, please consider availing yourself of the resources that Carleton University offers:

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

Grade Appeals

If you feel that an assigned grade does not fairly reflect the quality of your work, the professor will be happy to discuss your assignment and the grade with you. If you would like to have your grade reviewed, you must submit a one-page justification for your position that responds directly to the comments and grade that you received. You must also indicate the grade that you believe your assignment deserved. Submit your one-page justification together with your original assignment to the professor no later than one week after receiving your grade. A request for review can result in the professor raising or lowering your original grade.

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

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 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](#).

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.

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).

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 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.