

PSCI 4513/5513
Politics and the Study of History
Thursdays, 2:35 – 5:25pm
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Marc Hanveld
Office: Loeb A679
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:35-1:25pm, or by appointment
Email: marc.hanveld@carleton.ca

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Course Description

In a 1770 letter to the publisher William Strahan, the Scottish historian and philosopher David Hume wrote, “I believe this is the historical age and this the historical nation.” The study of history flourished in the eighteenth century. And, for Hume and for many of his Scottish and European contemporaries, it was closely intertwined with politics and with the study thereof. But how, precisely, did these authors understand the connections between history and politics? What sorts of history had political relevance? How was history properly understood and how best written? What could history tell eighteenth-century readers about their contemporary world? Or about their possible futures?

Eighteenth-century historical writings are remarkably varied. Some are monumental national histories. Others are more narrowly focused. Eighteenth-century historians also produced conjectural histories to explain aspects of human life such as the origin of languages or the development of societies. Studying the various eighteenth-century historical works reveals different conceptions of history (e.g. progressive or cyclical), different methods and the use of different source materials, different views on progress, different understandings of the mechanisms that give rise to historical change, and different accounts of providence in history. We also read different accounts of how and what the study of history can contribute to political judgment and politics in the present.

In this course, we will study a small sample drawn from the eighteenth-century historical literature. Through our readings and our seminar discussions we will open a window onto the vast and varied terrain that was politics and the study of history in the eighteenth century.

Please ensure that you read the Policy on the Use of Generative AI (p.9).

The principal learning objectives for the course are:

- 1) For students to develop knowledge and understanding of some important examples of eighteenth-century historical writing.
- 2) For students to develop their understanding of important concepts and debates in eighteenth-century historical writing and of the historical and political contexts in which these works were published.
- 3) For students to engage in critical discussion of the texts under study in a seminar setting.
- 4) For students to develop their critical and analytical skills through written assignments and in-class discussions.

Evaluation at a Glance

- Seminar Presentation	25%	
- Participation	20%	
- Mini Conference	10%	
- Term Paper	45%	(Due March 27)
- Term Paper Oral Defence	pass/fail	(April 7 or 8)

Evaluation in Detail

Seminar Presentations

Each student will be responsible for giving one seminar presentation. The purpose of each presentation is to structure the seminar discussion that will follow. Presentations should not merely summarise the week's readings. Rather, the presenter should develop a critical discussion of the readings and pose several questions to begin the seminar discussion.

Presentations for students enrolled in PSCI 4315 should be 10-12 minutes in length. For students enrolled in PSCI 5315, presentations should be between 12-15 minutes in length.

The presentation schedule will be set at the first meeting of the seminar on January 8.

Participation

Attendance will be taken in every class except for Week 1 and 13. Students will receive one mark for every class they attend, up to the maximum of ten.

In advance of each of these ten classes, students will have the opportunity to submit a brief (maximum one paragraph) discussion of a passage in the assigned readings for that week. The discussion paragraphs should identify and briefly discuss a complexity or a

point of significance in the identified passage. Students will receive one mark for every discussion paragraph that they submit, conditional upon them attending the corresponding class (maximum one discussion paragraph per week).

Participation grades in the course will be calculated out of 20 marks (discussion paragraphs and attendance in 10 classes). These grades will be discussed in detail in class on January 8.

Term Paper

Each student will submit one term paper. The papers will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on March 27. This assignment will call for research beyond the assigned course readings. The assignment will be distributed through Brightspace and will be discussed in greater detail in class.

For students enrolled in PSCI 4315, the maximum word count for term papers will be 3500 words. For students enrolled in PSCI 5315, the maximum word count for term papers will be 4500 words.

At a designated time on either April 7 or 8, each student will meet individually with the professor for a brief oral defence of their term paper. The oral defences will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Each student must earn a passing grade for their oral defence to receive a grade for their Term Paper. Through the oral defences, students will develop skills that will prepare them for conference presentations and thesis defences in the future.

Mini Conference

The final meeting of the seminar (April 2) is set aside for a Mini Conference. In advance of the date, each student will be required to submit a brief (maximum one page) discussion paper based on the term readings. Students will be paired with another student in the seminar and will be asked, as part of the mini conference, to deliver a brief (3-4 minutes) oral response to that student's discussion paper.

Discussion papers will be graded for completion (5%). Oral responses will be graded for quality (5%). Combined, these two grades will make up the 10% grade assigned to the Mini Conference.

The Mini Conference will be discussed in detail in class on January 8.

Summary

Students are required to:

- 1) Complete assigned readings prior to each seminar
- 2) Attend weekly meetings of the seminar and submit one discussion paragraph per week (20%)

- 3) Deliver one seminar presentation (25% each)
- 4) Submit one term paper (45%)
- 5) Complete one oral defence of the term paper (pass/fail)
- 6) Submit a one-page concluding discussion paper and comment on another at the Mini Conference on April 2 (10%)

Readings:

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

Physical copies of the Bolingbroke and Macaulay texts should be available for purchase at the Carleton Campus Store.

For students who wish to purchase physical copies of other texts that we will be reading this term, here is a complete list of recommended print editions of the texts:

- Bolingbroke, Henry St. John, 1st Viscount. *Political Writings*. Edited by David Armitage (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997). \$52.95
- 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. Forward by William B. Todd (Indianapolis, IN.: Liberty Fund, 1983).
- Catharine Macaulay. *Political Writings*. Edited by Max Skjönsberg (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023). \$36.95
- Montesquieu. *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*. Translated by David Lowenthal (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1999).
- Adam Ferguson. *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*. Edited by Fania Oz-Salzberger (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Course Schedule

Week 1 (January 8): Introduction to the Course: On History and Historical Writing

- Readings:
 - o Hugh Blair, *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*
 - Lecture XXXVI (Historical Writing)
 - o Available online:
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ecco/004786433.0001.003?view=oc>

- Voltaire, Entry on “History” from the *Encyclopédie*
 - Available online:
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/did2222.0000.088/--history?rgn=main;view=fulltext;q1=Fran%e7ois-Marie+Arouet+de+Voltaire>

Week 2 (January 15): Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, *A Dissertation Upon Parties*

- Readings: *Dissertation Upon Parties*
 - Letters 1-10
 - Available online:
<https://historyofeconomicthought.mcmaster.ca/bolingbroke/parties.html>

Week 3 (January 22): Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, *A Dissertation Upon Parties*

- Readings: *Dissertation Upon Parties*
 - Letters 11-19
 - Available online:
<https://historyofeconomicthought.mcmaster.ca/bolingbroke/parties.html>

Week 4 (January 29): David Hume, *Essays and History of England*

- Readings:
 - *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*
 - "Of the First Principles of Government"
 - "Of Parties in General"
 - "Of the Parties of Great Britain"
 - Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website) or at www.davidhume.org
- *History of England*
 - Vol. V, “Appendix to the Reign of James I,” pp. 124-55.
 - Vol. V, “The king seized again by the army”; “The King’s [Charles I] trial—And execution—And character,” pp. 529-48.
 - Vol. VI, “Rye-house plot—Trial and Execution of Algernon Sidney,” pp.427-438.
 - Vol. VI, “Manners, arts and science,” pp. 530-45.

- Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website) or at www.davidhume.org

Week 5 (February 5): David Hume, *History of England*

- Readings:
 - *History of England*
 - Vol. IV, "Appendix III [to the Reign of Elizabeth I]," pp. 354-86.
 - Vol. I, "Appendix I: The Anglo-Saxon Government and Manners," pp. 160-85.
 - Vol. I, "Appendix II: The Feudal and Anglo-Norman Government and Manners," pp.455-88.
 - Vol. II, pp. 518-25.
 - Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website) or at www.davidhume.org

Week 6 (February 12): Catharine Macaulay, *The History of England*

- Readings:
 - "Selections from *The History of England*" (1763-1783)
 - Republished in *Catharine Macaulay: Political Writings*. Edited by Max Skjönsberg (Cambridge University Press, 2023).
 - Available online: ARES

Week 7 (February 19): Winter Break

- NO CLASS

Week 8: (February 26): Catharine Macaulay, Political Pamphlets

- Readings:
 - "Loose Remarks on Certain Positions to be Found in Mr. Hobbes's 'Philosophical Rudiments of Government and Society,' with a Short Sketch of a Democratical Form of Government, in a Letter to Signor Paoli" (1767).
 - "Observations on a Pamphlet entitled 'Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents'" (1770).
 - "An Address to the People of England, Scotland and Ireland on the Present Important Crisis of Affairs" (1775).
 - "Selections from The History of England from the Revolution to the Present Time in a Series of Letters to a Friend" (1778).
 - "Observations on the Reflections of the Right Hon. Edmund Burke on the Revolution in France" (1790).

- Republished in *Catharine Macaulay: Political Writings*. Edited by Max Skjönsberg (Cambridge University Press, 2023).
- Available online: ARES

Week 9 (March 5): Montesquieu, *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*

- Readings:
 - *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*
 - Chapters I-X
 - Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website)

Week 10 (March 12): Montesquieu, *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*

- Readings:
 - *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*
 - Chapters XI-XXIII
 - Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website)

Week 11 (March 19): Adam Ferguson, *Essay on the History of Civil Society*

- Readings:
 - *Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - Part 1 (chapters 1-4; 9-10)
 - Part 3 (chapters 2-3; 6)
 - Available online: ARES

Week 12 (March 26): Adam Ferguson, *Essay on the History of Civil Society*

- Readings:
 - *Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - Part 4 (chapters 1-4)
 - Part 5 (chapters 1-4)
 - Part 6 (chapters 1-6)
 - Available online: ARES

Week 13 (April 2): Mini Conference

Key Dates: Summary

Date	Topic	Assignment
January 8	Introduction to the Course: On History and Historical Writing	
January 15	Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, <i>Dissertation Upon Parties</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
January 22	Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, <i>Dissertation Upon Parties</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
January 29	David Hume, <i>Essays and History of England</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
February 5	David Hume, <i>History of England</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
February 12	Catharine Macaulay, <i>History of England</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
February 19	No Class: University Closed	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
February 26	Catharine Macaulay, Political Pamphlets	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
March 5	Montesquieu, <i>Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
March 12	Montesquieu, <i>Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
March 19	Ferguson, <i>Essay on the History of Civil Society</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
March 26	Ferguson, <i>Essay on the History of Civil Society</i>	Submit discussion paragraph in Brightspace
March 27		Term Paper Due
April 2	Mini Conference	Discussion Paper
April 7-8		Oral Paper Defences

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.

Policy on the Use of Generative AI

In this course, you are responsible for completing every step in developing, designing, and writing your graded assignments without the use of Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT, Claude, DeepSeek, or Gemini. This means that you may not use LLMs, for example, to brainstorm, to summarize research findings, articles, and/or books, to write any portion of your assignments, or to edit them.

To prohibit the use of LLMs in this course is not to deny that they are now part of our world or even that, for some applications, they might prove useful as tools. Rather, the prohibition on the use of LLMs is driven entirely by the pedagogical objectives of the course and by the understanding of scholarship that underlies them. On this view the activities of reading and interpreting texts, formulating questions, researching, writing, and editing are not discreet enterprises. None can be farmed out to computers without significant intellectual and scholarly loss for the simple reason that thinking and writing are intimately connected and cannot be divorced from one another.

As a professor, I am committed to guiding students as they deepen their understanding of the course material, encouraging their intellectual curiosity, and assisting them to develop skills requisite for formulating, communicating, and debating complex arguments. To realize these objectives, it is essential that the work I comment upon and grade is truly the students' own work. Correspondingly, it is essential that it is I who designs the course and who comments upon and grades my students' work. Therefore, as part of this policy, I make a commitment to my students that I will not use generative AI to produce any element of this course (including syllabus, reading lists, assignments, etc.), nor will I use generative AI to grade or comment upon any student work.

In order to ensure the integrity of the course and that students have opportunities to benefit maximally from their participation in it, I will take reasonable steps to ensure that all students abide by this policy on the use of generative AI and, in cases where they do not, take appropriate measures as prescribed by Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy.

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 either APA or Chicago style, whichever you prefer, 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 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/>

Late Penalties & Extensions

Written assignments 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

Grading written assignments is not an exact science. 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.

Political Science Course Outline Appendix

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:

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>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: 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, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: 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](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Disabilities: 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 for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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).

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 its 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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

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.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)

B640 Loeb

Registrar's Office (3500)	300
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Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th
floor Library	

Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302
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Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
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Career Services (6611)	401
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