

PSCI 4316
Contemporary Political theory
Thursday 11:35-2:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Tom Darby
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Rationale: This course is thematically arranged. The first part consists of the following themes: 1) Spiritual Crisis, 2) The end of history, 3) technology 4) and globalization. Although the course will focus mostly on modern literature, comparisons of modern politics and philosophy with ancient politics and philosophy will be discussed throughout.

Required Readings:

Theme: Spiritual Crisis and the End of History

- 1) Tom Darby, "On Spiritual Crisis, Globalization and Planetary Rule", Peter Lawler and Dale McConky, in *Faith, Reason and Political Life Today* (New York: Roman and Littlefield, 2001)
- 2) Tom Darby, *The Feast: Meditations on Politics and Time* (Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1990) [Chapters 3, 5, and 6. In course pack]
- 3) Alexander Kojève, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel: Lectures on the Phenomenology of Spirit*, assembled by Raymond Queneau, edited by Allen Bloom, translated by James H. Nichols, Jr. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1980 [Chapters 4 and 5 and also "The Idea of Death in the Philosophy of Hegel" and "On Hegel, Marx and Christianity" in the journal, "Interpretation", accessible on line.
- 4) Leo Strauss, *On Tyranny: Including the Strauss–Kojève Correspondence*, edited by Victor Gourevitch and Michael S. Roth (Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan Canada, 1991)
- 5) G.W.F. Hegel, selections from *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, both the Baillie and Muller translations

Theme: Technology

- 6) Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1958)

- 7) Martin Heidegger, selections, *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, Translated by William Lovitt (Toronto: Harper & Row, 1977)
- 8) Ray Kurzweil, 'Transcendent Man', a film
- 9) Tom Darby, "Overarching Metaphors and the Configurations of the Western City", in *Design: Principles & Practices an International Journal*, (Champaign, Illinois, Common Ground Publishing, Volume 5, Issue 6, 2012) [Photocopy]
- 10) Harvey C. Mansfield, 'Science and Non-Science in Liberal Education', <http://www.thenewatlantas.com/publications>

Theme: Globalization

- 11) Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History", first published in *The Public Interest*, 1989, can be obtained from the internet. Also, in response to Fukuyama's theses Samuel P. Huntington's see, "The Clash of Civilizations" in *Foreign Affairs*, 1993, also on the internet.
- 12) Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger*, a novel
- 13) Michael J. Mazarr, *Unmodern Men in the Modern World: Radical Islam, Terrorism, and the War On Modernity* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- 14) Andrew Mitchell, 'Heidegger and Terrorism', can be obtained from the internet
- 15) 'Mishima', a film
- 16) Tom Darby, *Disorderly Notions*, a novel

Course Assignments and Evaluation Procedures

Each student will do at least three presentations, participate in class discussions and write one twenty page essay. The presentations and participation grade will comprise 30% of the final mark and the essay 70%.

MASTER RESOURCE LIST PSCI 4305 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

General Sources Pertaining to the Context of Fall Semester

Theme: Hegel, Nietzsche and the End of History

1. Strauss, L., "What is Political Philosophy?" , in *Man and the City*

2. Strauss, L., "The Three Waves of Modernity", in *Man and the City*
3. Foucault, M., "Nietzsche, Genealogy and History" in *Michael Foucault: Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews*, Bouchard, D., Simon S., eds. and trans.
4. Cooper, B., *The End of History: An Essay in Modern Hegelianism*
5. Lilla, M., "The End of Philosophy: How a Russian Emigré Bought Hegel to the French" (photocopy)
6. Darby, T., Egd, B., Jones, B., *Nietzsche and the Rhetoric of Nihilism* (selections)
7. Bataille, G., *The Sunday of Life*, (a novel about boredom and the end of history in post WWII France)
8. Lilla, M. *the Reckless Mind: Intellectuals in Politics*
9. Lawler, P., *Postmodernism Rightly Understood*
10. Darby, T., *The Feast: Meditations on Politics and Time, second edition*
11. Descombes, V., *Modern French Philosophy*
12. Bloom, A., "The Political Philosopher in Democratic Society: a Socratic View", In *Giants and Dwarfs*, Bloom, A., ed.
13. Darby, T., "On Spiritual Crisis, Technology and Globalization", in Lawler P. and McConkey, D., eds., in *Faith, Reason and Political Life Today*
14. Darby, T., "Overarching metaphors and the Configurations of the Western City" in *Design, Principles and Practices: An International Journal* (photocopy/internet)
15. Crace, J., *Being Dead*, (a novel about ...well... being dead)
16. Kojève, A., "Hegel, Marx and Christianity", (photocopy/internet)

General Sources Pertaining to the Context of Winter Semester

Theme: Technology and the Transformation of Nature

17. Strauss, L., *On Tyranny*
18. Arendt, H., *The Human Condition*
19. Ellul, J., *The Technological Society*
20. Heidegger, M., *Questions Concerning Technology and Other Essays*
21. Rosen, S. "Techne and the Origins of Modernity"; 22. Cantor, P. "Romanticism and Technology: Satanic Verses and Satanic Mills"; 23. Weinberger, J., "Technology and the Problem of Liberal Democracy"; 24. Melzer, A. M.; 25. "The Problem with the Problem of Technology" in Melzer, A.; Weinberger, J.; Zinman, M. (ed.), *Technology in the Western Political Tradition*
26. Germain, G., *Spirits in the Modern World*
27. Fukuyama, F., *Our Post-Modern Future: Consequences of the Bio-technical Revolution*
28. Dreyfus, H., "Heidegger on the Connection between Nihilism, Art, Technology and Politics" in *the Cambridge Companion to Heidegger*, Guigon, C., ed.

29. Voegelin, E., "On Hegel: A Study in Sorcery" (photocopy)
30. Cooper, B., *Action into Nature: An Essay on the Meaning of Technology*
31. Darby, T., ed, *Sojourns in the New World*
32. Grant, G., *Technology and Justice*
33. Gauchet, M., *the Disenchantment of the World: A Political History of Religion*
34. Germain, G., *A Discourse on Disenchantment*
35. Kuhn, T., *the Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
36. Weiner, N., *the Human Use of Human Beings*
37. Kojève, A., *L'Origienne Chrétienne de la Science Moderne*
38. Koyré, A., *From Closed World to Infinite Universe*
39. Poerksen, U., *Plastic Words: Tyranny of a Modular Language*
40. Innis, H., *Empire and Communication*
41. Levin, J., *Madman Dreams of Turing Machine*, (a novel about the inventor of the computer)

Theme: Technology, Politics and Nihilism

42. Dreyfus, H., "Knowledge and Human Values" (photocopy)
43. Heidegger, M., *Nietzsche*, Vol.1, Section 5
44. Jonas, H., *The Gnostic Religion* (afterword, photocopy)
45. Kurzweil, R., *The Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence* (selections) and *Transcendent Man* (a film about ...well...transcendent man)
46. Lyotard, J-F., *the Inhuman: Reflections on Time*
47. Haraway, D., *Simians, Cyborgs and Women*
48. Ward, M., *Virtual Organism: The Startling World of Artificial Life*
49. Houellebecq, M., *The Elementary Particles*, (a novel about nihilism and technology in contemporary France)
50. Rosen, S., *Nihilism*

51. O'Connor, F., *Wise Blood*, (a famous tragic novel about spiritual crisis and the death of God in the American South just after WWII and a comic attempt to do something about it)
52. Nietzsche, F., *Thoughts out of Season* (selections)
53. Heidegger, *A Letter on Humanism*
54. Paz, O., *Alternating Current*
55. Bellow, S., *More Die of Heartbreak*, (a novel about life at the end of history. Kojeve is a minor character)
56. Céline, S.-F., *Journey to the End of the Night*, (a disgusting anti-Semitic novel about nihilism in post-WWI France, New York and other locations)
57. *American Beauty*, (a film about re-animalized man)
58. *Fight Club*, (a film about Japanized man)
59. Bataille, G., *The Accursed Share, Vol. I: Consumption* (Introduction) (photocopy)
60. Sorokin, M., *Variations on a Theme Park*
62. Eco, U., *Travels in Hyper Reality*
64. Heidegger, M., "Only a God Can Save Us": An Interview (photocopy/internet)
65. Steiner, G., *The Hollow Miracle* (photocopy)
66. Tamas, G., "On Post-Fascism" (photocopy)
67. Palahniuk, C., *Choke*, (a novel by the author of *Fight Club*)
68. McCarthy, C., *No Country for Old Men*, (a novel about nihilism on the American / Mexican border)
69. Banks, R., *Continental Drift*, (a novel about desperation, nihilism and crime in globalized Florida)

Theme: Civilization vs. Culture and the Struggle for the Planet

70. Heidegger, M., *an Introduction to Metaphysics*
71. Huntington, S., *the Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*
73. Sorel, *On Violence*

74. Schmitt, C., *The Concept of the Political* including the *Introductory Essay* by T. Strong
75. Schmitt, C., *Land and Sea*
76. Ferguson, N., "A New War of the World", in *Foreign Affairs*, Sept/ Oct, 2006 (photocopy)
77. Lewis, B., *the Crisis of Islam*
78. Pipes, D., *Militant Islam Reaches America*
79. Cooper, B., *New Political Religions, or an Analysis of Modern Terrorism*
80. Mazaar, M., *Un-modern Men in the Modern World: Radical Islam, Terrorism and the War on Modernity*
81. Mitchell, A., "Heidegger and Terrorism", (photocopy/internet)
82. Veith, G , *Modern Fascism: Liquidating the Judeo-Christian Worldview*
83. Harris, L, *Civilization and Its Enemies*
84. Barber, B., *Beyond Jihad vs McWorld*
85. Fukuyama, F., *The End of History and the Last Man*
86. Canetti, E., *Crowds and Power*
87. *Mishima*, (a film about Japanized man)
88. Bataille, G., "The Psychological Structure of Fascism", in *Visions of Excess* (photocopy)
89. Herf, J., *Reactionary Modernism: Technology, Culture and Politics in Weimer and the Third Reich*
90. Steiner, G., *In Bluebeard's Castle*
91. Piccone, P., "Confronting the French New Right" in *Telos*, Fall, 1995
92. de Benoit, A., "The Idea of Empire" , in *Telos*, Fall, 1995
93. Gottfried, P., "Alain de Benoit's Anti-Americanism" , in *Telos*, Fall 1995
94. Henri-Levy, B., *War, Evil and the End of History*
95. Boot, M., *War Made New: Technology, Warfare and the Course of History: 1500 to the Present*
96. Hanson, V., *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power*
97. Meyer, H., *Carl Schmidt and Leo Strauss*

98. Virilio, P., Lorringer, S., *Pure War*
99. Cantor, Paul, "Shakespeare in the Original Klingon: Star Trek and the End of History" in Lawler and McConkey (eds), *Faith, Reason and Political Life Today*
100. Kojeve, A., "Empire Sketch", (photocopy)
101. Kojeve, A., "Marx is God and Ford is His Prophet" (photocopy)
102. Kojeve, A., Kojeve-Schmitt Correspondence (photocopy)
103. Pagden, Anthony, *Empire: Peoples and Empires: A Short History of European Migration, Exploration and Conquest, From Greece to the Present*
104. Maier, C., *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors*
105. Coker, C., *Twilight of the West*
106. Ceaser, J.C., *Reconstructing America: The Symbol of America in Modern Thought*

Theme: Retrospective

107. Rosen, S., *Hermeneutics as Politics*
108. Verene, D., *Philosophy and the Return of Self-knowledge*
109. Zimmerman, M., "Ontological Aestheticism: Heidegger, Junger, and National Socialism" in *the Heidegger Case on Philosophy and Politics*
110. Kundera, M., *Immortality* (a novel about life at the end of history in contemporary Europe)
112. Houellebeck, M., *the Possibility of an Island* (a novel about nihilism, technology and immortality)
113. Weiner, J., *Longing for this World: the Strange Science of Immortality*
114. Hadot, P., *the Veil of Isis: an Essay on the History of the Idea of Nature*
115. Heidegger, M., *Country Path Conversations*, trans. Davis, B.
116. Adiga, A., *White Tiger* (a tri-comic novel about the revolutionary effects of technology and globalization in rural India)
117. Hutter, H., *Shaping the Future: Nietzsche's Regime of the Soul and its Ascetic Practices*

118. Darby, T., *Disorderly Notions: Volume I. of the Altamaha Trilogy* (another novel about life at the end of history)

New Sources added to this list after 8/18/11 (Alas, the list keeps growing)

- 1) Schmitt, Carl, *On War*, Nunan, T., trans.
- 2) Muller, Jan-Werner, *A Dangerous Mind: Carl Schmitt in Post –War Political Thought*
- 3) Pressfield, S., *The Warrior Ethos* ([www. Stephen Pressfield On Line](http://www.StephenPressfieldOnLine))
- 4) Tabachnick, David E., *The Great Reversal: How We Let Technology Take Control of Our Planet*

Academic Accommodations

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, 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).

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 |

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|-------|----|----|-------|----|---|
| 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.