

PSCI 4318 A/5308 A: Concepts of Political Community I

Tuesday 2:35-5:25 p.m.
(Location provided on Carleton Central)

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Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00 noon to 2:20 pm.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Concepts of Political Community I.
Critical survey of concepts of political community, including the common good, justice, citizenship, leadership, democracy, and legitimacy, from ancient, modern, and contemporary political theory.
Prerequisite(s): fourth-year Honours standing or permission of the Department.
Also offered at the graduate level, with different requirements, as [PSCI 5308](#), for which additional credit is precluded.
Seminar three hours a week.

LONGER DESCRIPTION:

Tyranny or Justice? The Best Way of Life and The Best Political Community.
Is there a form of political authority that would enable its citizens to fulfill their potential for happiness? The search for the best political community involves a number of other questions: Is human life primarily geared toward individualism or toward co-operation with others? Should we aim at cultivating virtue or maximizing our power and wealth? We explore these questions through a consideration of the Platonic Socrates in three dialogues, the *GORGIAS*, the *SYMPOSIUM* and the *REPUBLIC*, in which Socrates attempts to refute the arguments of the Sophists that self-interest and tyranny are the natural way for people to live and argues that, on the contrary, philosophy and virtue are happier and more fulfilling ways of life than tyranny. Plato argues that reason supports political community rather than individual self-interest — our natures are fulfilled through a dedication to the common good. We then turn to a consideration of Aristotle's *POLITICS*, a work which, while sharing many of the premises of Platonic thought in preferring the common good to individual self-interest, believes that a more realistic account of political life is necessary, one that does not aim for a utopia like Plato's *REPUBLIC*. Finally, we end with the modern thinker Hobbes, who in the *LEVIATHAN* returns to the Sophists' view that self-interest is the only natural way to live, but adds to it a summons for the conquest of

nature that ushers in the modern world and modern technology by transferring the will of God to re-shape the world to secular human rulers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The purpose of this course in relation to students' program of study is to familiarize them with the history of political ideas. This should prove useful to students of Political Science, History and Philosophy, particularly students specializing in Political Theory and those interested in the historical dimension of International Relations.

This course is not a formal prerequisite for specific other courses, but should prove useful for students interested in the specializations mentioned above. It should also prove useful for students applying to graduate programs in Political Science with a specialization in Political Theory.

I expect students to acquire a basic familiarity with the themes considered in the course and the texts that are connected to those themes in the course outline. In order to pass this course, students must attend class regularly, unless they have a valid excuse to be absent. It is not possible to contribute to the seminar discussion and to write a successful term paper unless one is present every week in class.

In addition to the presentations students are asked to make on an equally rotating basis, where they will lead the class in the discussion of that week's readings, all students should be prepared to contribute to the group discussion as it unfolds every week.

REQUIRED AND MANDATORY TEXTS AVAILABLE FROM THE BOOKSTORE AND CURRENT COST:

Aristophanes. CLOUDS. Hackett Publishing. \$20.
Plato. GORGIAS. Hackett Publishing. \$25.
Plato. SYMPOSIUM. Hackett Publishing. \$15.33.
Plato. REPUBLIC. Hackett Publishing. \$12.26
Aristotle. POLITICS. Hackett Publishing. \$15.99
Hobbes. LEVIATHAN. Hackett Publishing. \$18.

NB: Many of these texts are available as a PDF free online, and you are welcome to exercise this option.

REQUIREMENTS AND BASIS OF GRADING:

a) Students will make presentations on an equally rotating basis on the readings assigned for each class. There is no written component. The aim is to lead the seminar group through the

readings and generate a collective discussion of them. Worth 50% of grade.

b) A term paper on the textual exegesis of one or more of the assigned readings. Suggested topics will be provided. You are welcome to use your seminar presentation as a dry run for the term paper, but you are also free to write on something else entirely. Length: For 4000-level students: 15 thesis pages double-spaced typed. For 5000-level students: 20 thesis pages double-spaced typed. Submissions are by e-mail attachment. Due: April 8. Worth 50% of grade. Late papers will be fined by a fraction of a grade (i.e., A to A-) for each day.

c) Students may not re-use the same piece of work previously submitted for credit in another course and receive credit in this course. Students may not use generative AI tools to write essays.

d) 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.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY READINGS:

Week 1. Jan. 7. Introductory Remarks.

Week 2. Jan. 14. Aristophanes. CLOUDS.

Week 3. Jan. 21. Plato. GORGIAS.

Week 4. Jan. 28. Plato. SYMPOSIUM. 172-212c.

Week 5. Feb. 4. Plato. SYMPOSIUM. 212d-223d.

Week 6. Feb. 11. Plato. REPUBLIC. Books 1-3.

WINTER BREAK

Week. 7. Feb. 25. Plato. REPUBLIC. Books 4-7.

Week 8. March 4. Plato REPUBLIC. Books 8-10.

Week 9 March 11. Aristotle POLITICS. Books 1-2.

Week 10. March 18. Aristotle. POLITICS. Books 3-4.

Week 11. March 25. Hobbes. LEVIATHAN. Introduction. Chapters 1-26. \$18.

Week 12. April 1. Concluding Remarks.

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/>

ood2Talk: 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:

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

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is **September 30th, 2024**. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is **January 31, 2025**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is **November 15, 2024**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is **March 15, 2025**.

WDN: For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: **December 9-21, 2024**. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: **April 11-26, 2025** (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor
Library	
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
Nideyinàn	
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory