

PSCI 4318A/5308A
CONCEPTS OF POLITICAL COMMUNITY (in-person)
Concepts and Forms of Political Order in History

Tuesdays, 14:35 - 17:25
Confirm location on Carleton Central

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Introduction:

What are the foundations of political community? What concepts and experiences have shaped human societies? What theoretical, scientific, or philosophic sense can be made of the patterns of human society in history - if there is indeed any meaningful sense to be made of it?

In this course, we will be meditating upon these basic questions, and questioning ourselves and our own basic preconceptions about the nature of society. Our general aim will be to delve beyond our habitual ideas in order to develop deeper insight and understanding into the basic experiences which have given form to diverse societies across history. Our hypothesis during our journey will be the maxim that the order of history emerges from the history of order. We will be testing this hypothesis.

For our roadmap, we will use Eric Voegelin's *Order & History*, volumes 1-3 (*Israel & Revelation*, *The World of the Polis*, and *Plato & Aristotle*). We will explore the contrasting cosmological, anthropological, and soteriological experiences of a series of civilizations - Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, and Greece. We will also touch repeatedly upon the affiliated modern Western form of order which emerged from their background. All students will be invited to focus upon particular case-studies among the societies, texts, or personalities

covered in the readings (i.e. Egypt during the Middle Kingdom, the Mesopotamian *Enuma Elish*, or Plato's *Republic*).

The overall goal of our study and discussion will be to learn the methods and techniques of philosophic anthropology for understanding the orders and experiences of diverse societies as they understand themselves. The ultimate goal will be to develop insight into the causes and conditions of political order and disorders, and thereby develop diagnostic skills, political judgement, and the bases of *phronesis* or practical wisdom.

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 of the presentation. The aim is to lead the seminar group through the readings and generate a collective discussion of them. Students should aim to summarize and explain key concepts in the readings. Worth 50% of grade.

b) A term paper in the form of a 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 basis for the term paper, or to write on something new entirely. *Undergraduate papers* will be evaluated based upon their comprehension of key concepts, either in themselves or as they apply to the case-studies covered during the course. *Graduate papers* will be evaluated based upon the demonstrated comprehension of concepts and their application, either by applying them to new case-studies or by a further extrapolation or critique of Voegelin's own work. Length: For 4000-level students: approximately 4000 words, double-spaced, typed. For 5000-level students: approximately 6000 words, double-spaced, typed. Due on the last day of classes. Worth 50% of grade. Late penalty of a fraction of a grade (i.e., A to A-) each day.

TEXTS:

All of these texts are usually available as PDFs on line, through the library course reserves, or in electronic formats through Amazon. The required texts shall also be on order through the bookstore. Recommended texts are similarly available, and shall also be on reserve online and in material formats at the MacOdrum Library.

Required texts:

* Voegelin, Eric. *Order and History* (volumes 1, 2, 3 - "Israel & Revelation", "The World of the Polis", "Plato and Aristotle"). University of Missouri Press.

Recommended texts:

- * Hadot, Pierre (trans. Arnold Ira Davidson). “Spiritual Exercises”, “The Figure of Socrates”, and “Philosophy as a Way of Life” in *Philosophy as a Way of Life: spiritual exercises from Socrates to Foucault*. Blackwell Press.
- * Polanyi, Michael. *History and Hope: An Analysis of Our Age* (The McEnerney Lectures). <http://www.polanyisociety.org/McEnerney-intro.htm>. (Audio, note: links to the .mp3 recordings are at the very bottom of the page).
- * Polanyi, Michael. *The Duke Lectures*. <http://www.polanyisociety.org/Duke/Duke1-searchable.pdf>
- * Plato (trans. Allan Bloom). *Republic*. Basic Books.
- * Rhodes, James M., “Modern Views of Plato’s Silence”. <https://voegelinview.com/modern-views-of-platos-silence-pt-1/>
- * Strauss, Leo. “Persecution and the Art of Writing” in *Persecution and the Art of Writing*. University of Chicago Press.
- * Voegelin, Eric. “Reason the Classic Experience” and “Historiogenesis” in *Anamnesis*. University of Missouri Press.
- * Voegelin, Eric. *Collected Works Volume 5 - Modernity Without Restraint: The Political Religions, The New Science of Politics, Politics, Science, and Gnosticism*. University of Missouri Press.
- * Webb, Eugene. *Eric Voegelin: Philosopher of History*. University of Washington Press.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Week 1: General introduction & discussion: cosmological vs. anthropological and soteriological orders, *gnosis*, philosophy and revelation.

Week 2: Order & History, volume 1 - Intro & Part 1: Mesopotamia, Achaemenid Persia, and Egypt - cosmological order defined

Week 3: Order & History, volume 1 - Part 2 & 3: Israel and Revelation, history and the leap in being.

Week 4: Order & History, volume 1 - Parts 3 & 4: Israel and Revelation, prophetic and apocalyptic consciousness.

Week 5: Order & History, volume 2 - Introduction & Part 1: Cretans, Achaeans, and Hellenes

Week 6: Order & History, volume 2 - Part 2: From Myth to Philosophy, Hesiod to Heraclitus

Week 7: Reading week

Week 8: Order & History, volume 2 - Part 3: The Athenian Century, tragedy, comedy, &

sophistry

Week 9: Order & History, volume 3 - Preface & Part 1: Plato

Week 10: Order & History, volume 3 - Part 1: Plato

Week 11: Order & History, volume 3 - Part 2: Aristotle

Week 12: Order & History, volume 3 - Part 2: Aristotle

Week 13: Review, Presentations and Discussion

Week 14: Review, Presentations and Discussion

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:

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](#).

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.