

PSCI 4809/5915 E
Politics and the Study of History
Thursdays, 8:35 – 11:25am
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
Office: Loeb A625
Office Hours: Thursdays and Fridays 12:35-1:25, or by appointment (in-person or Zoom)
Phone: (613) 520-2600 x2959
Email: marc.hanvelt@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. 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 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, for example, 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 development, 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.

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 (x2)	30%	(15% each)
- Participation	25%	
- Term Paper	45%	(Due April 12)

Evaluation in Detail

Seminar Presentations

Each student will be responsible for giving two seminar presentations. 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 4809 should be 7-10 minutes in length. For students enrolled in PSCI 5915, presentations should be between 10-15 minutes in length.

The presentation schedule will be set at the first meeting of the seminar on January 12.

Term Paper

Each student will submit one term paper. The papers will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on April 12. 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 4809, the maximum word count for term papers will be 4500 words. For students enrolled in PSCI 5915, the maximum word count for term papers will be 6000 words.

Participation

Participation grades will reflect each student's overall contribution to the scholarly environment of the seminar. Attendance in this seminar is mandatory (except for medical or other emergency personal reasons). In order to earn a high grade for participation, students must complete the assigned readings before every meeting of the seminar and engage honestly and respectfully with their classmates in critical discussion of those readings.

Summary

Students are required to:

- 1) Complete assigned readings prior to each seminar
- 2) Attend weekly meetings of the seminar and engage in the seminar discussion (25%)
- 3) Deliver two seminar presentations (15% each)
- 4) Submit one term paper (45%)

Readings:

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

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Jan. 12): Introduction to the Course: On History and Historical Writing

- Readings:
 - o Hugh Blair, *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*
 - Lecture XXXVI (Historical Writing)
 - <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ecco/004786433.0001.003?view=toc>
 - o Voltaire, Entry on "History" from the *Encyclopédie*
 - <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/did2222.0000.088/--history?rgn=main;view=fulltext;q1=Francois-Marie+Arouet+de+Voltaire>

Week 2 (Jan. 19): Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, *A Dissertation Upon Parties*

- Readings: *Dissertation Upon Parties*
 - o Letters 1-10
 - o <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3l13/bolingbroke/parties.html>

Week 3 (Jan. 26): Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, *A Dissertation Upon Parties*

- Readings: *Dissertation Upon Parties*
 - o Letters 11-19
 - o <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3l13/bolingbroke/parties.html>

Week 4 (Feb. 2): David Hume, *Essays and History of England*; Catharine Macaulay's Critique

- Readings:
 - o *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*
 - “Of Parties in General”
 - “Of the Parties of Great Britain”
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website) or at www.davidhume.org
- *History of England*
 - o Vol. V, “The king’s [Charles I] trial – And execution – And character,” pp. 535-48.
 - o Vol. V, “Appendix to the Reign of James I,” pp. 124-55.
 - o Vol. VI, “Manners, arts and science,” pp. 530-45.
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website)
- Catharine Macaulay
 - o *The History of England from the Accession of James I to the Elevation of the House of Hanover* (1768 Vol.4), pp.430-36.
 - o https://books.google.ca/books?id=JbtfAAAACAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_book_other_versions_r&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

Week 5 (Feb. 9): David Hume, *History of England*

- Readings:

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

Week 6 (Feb. 16): David Hume, *The Natural History of Religion*

- Readings:
 - *The Natural History of Religion*
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website) or at www.davidhume.org

Week 7 (Feb. 23): Winter Break

- NO CLASS

Week 8: (March 2): Montesquieu, *Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*

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

Week 9 (March 9): Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*

- Reading:
 - *Spirit of the Laws*
 - o Part 1 (Books 1-8)
 - o Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website)

Week 10 (March 16): Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*

- Readings:
 - *Spirit of the Laws*
 - o Part 2 (Books 9-13)

- Available online: Past Masters database (MacOdrum Library website)

Week 11 (March 23): Adam Smith’s Four Stage Theory and Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*

- Readings:
 - Adam Smith, *Lectures on Jurisprudence*
 - Pages 13-23 (“is the greatest extension it has undergone.”)
 - Available online: MacOdrum Library catalogue
 - Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - Parts 1-2
 - Available online: MacOdrum Library catalogue

Week 12 (March 30): Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*

- Readings:
 - *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - Parts 3-4
 - Available online: MacOdrum Library catalogue

Week 13 (April 6): Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*

- Readings:
 - *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
 - Parts 5-6
 - Available online: MacOdrum Library catalogue

Key Dates: Summary

Date	Topic	Assignment
January 12	Introduction to the Course: On History and Historical Writing	
January 19	Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, <i>Dissertation Upon Parties</i>	
January 26	Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, <i>Dissertation Upon Parties</i>	

February 2	David Hume, <i>Essays and History of England</i> ; Catharine Macaulay's Critique	
February 9	David Hume, <i>History of England</i>	
February 16	David Hume, <i>The Natural History of Religion</i>	
February 23	No Class: University Closed	
March 2	Montesquieu, <i>Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline</i>	
March 9	Montesquieu, <i>Spirit of the Laws</i>	
March 16	Montesquieu, <i>Spirit of the Laws</i>	
March 23	Adam Smith's Four Stage Theory and Adam Ferguson, <i>An Essay on the History of Civil Society</i>	
March 30	Adam Ferguson, <i>An Essay on the History of Civil Society</i>	
April 6	Adam Ferguson, <i>An Essay on the History of Civil Society</i>	
April 12		Term Paper Due

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 from around the world. A core ethical principle that undergirds all of these scholarly communities is the responsibility of every scholar 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 (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

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.

Appendix

Covid-19 Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

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 for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

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.

Plagiarism

Carleton's [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.

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.

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.
