

PSCI 4319/5309 W 2017

Concepts of Political Community II.

Instructor: Professor Waller R. Newell
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Time: Thursdays 11:35 to 14:25, please confirm location on Carleton Central. Office Hours: Wednesdays 12 to 3 pm., Loeb D693. Office phone: x 2765. email: WallerNewell@cunet.carleton.ca. There are no pre-requisites for this course.

ESCAPING MODERNITY: FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS AT THE END OF HISTORY

The modern age was launched on the principle that individual rights and economic self-interest were the only basis for legitimate government. Virtue and morality, the main focus of the ancients, should play no role in political life. But almost from the outset, there was a powerful critique of this modern way of life as spiritually debased, materialistic and promoting selfishness. These thinkers were also powerfully inspired by the shining ideal of the ancient Greek *polis*, a vision of virtuous community that they wanted to revive in the modern age. We will begin with Rousseau's critique of modernity in his two DISCOURSES and the responses to it of Kant in THE GROUNDWORK OF THE METAPHYSICS OF MORALS and Schiller in LETTERS ON THE AESTHETIC EDUCATION OF MAN, focusing on the competing demands of freedom and nature. Then we will turn to Hegel's understanding of history in the PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT as a teleological progression that is bringing mankind toward a new age of harmony and reconciliation, the successful synthesis of modern individual liberty and the classical emphasis on community. Nietzsche in BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL and Heidegger in BEING AND TIME both launch powerful attacks on this benevolent Hegelian view of historical progress, arguing that the unfolding of modernity has led to an increase in alienation, not its decrease as Hegel had argued, and that the entire modern age with its leveling of rank and nobility must be swept away so as to usher in an entirely new world. Just as Nietzsche and Heidegger reject the benevolent teleological rationalism of Hegel's "Absolute Science of Spirit" and encourage noble struggle, their views of the ancient Greek world are correspondingly different from that of Hegel — whereas Hegel extolled the classical age of Periclean Athens for its emphasis on reasoned order and aesthetic balance, qualities he believed would re-emerge in the modern age at the End of History, Nietzsche and Heidegger preferred the tragic age of Homeric heroism and its embrace of irrational daring.

Requirements and basis of grading:

- a) Weekly seminar presentations, on an equally rotating basis, on the readings for each class. No written component. Worth 50% of grade.
- b) A term paper consisting of a close textual analysis of one or more of the texts we are reading in the course. 15 pages double-spaced typed. Due on the last day of term, Friday April 7. Worth 50% of grade.

Attendance and Lateness Policy:

- 1) Attendance is obligatory, not optional. Every student is expected to attend every class unless the student has a recognized medical or personal excuse for being absent.
- 2) Late papers will be penalized by half a grade a day after the final due date for submission.

Texts: (on order at Bookstore):

* on order at Bookstore ** available free on-line. NB: The ones on order may also be available free on-line if you do some digging.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. BASIC POLITICAL WRITINGS. *

Immanuel Kant. GROUNDWORK OF THE METAPHYSICS OF MORALS. *

Friedrich Schiller. LETTERS ON THE AESTHETIC EDUCATION OF MAN **

G.W.F. Hegel. THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT. * and **

Friedrich Nietzsche. BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL. *

Martin Heidegger. BEING AND TIME. * and **

January 5: Opening remarks.

January 12: Rousseau. FIRST AND SECOND DISCOURSES.

January 19: Kant, GROUNDWORK OF THE METAPHYSICS OF MORALS (parts 1-2); Schiller, LETTERS ON THE AESTHETIC EDUCATION OF MAN (letters 1-2, 13, 20-22.).

January 26: Hegel, PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT. Readings are by *section* number from the Miller translation, *not* page number. Preface, 1-41; Introduction (entire); The Truth of Self-Certainty, 166-167; Lordship and Bondage, 178-196; Stoicism, 197-201; Skepticism, 202-205; Unhappy Consciousness, 206-230;

February 2: Hegel, P of S. Spirit, 438-443; Ethical World, 446-463; Ethical Action, 464-476; Right, 477-483; Self-estrangement, 484-486.

February 9: Hegel, P of S. Absolute Freedom and Terror, 582-596; Forgiveness, 670-671; Religion, 672-683.

February 16: Nietzsche, BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL. Preface, Books 1-5.

WINTER BREAK

March 2: Nietzsche, BG and E. Books 6-9.

March 9: Heidegger, BEING AND TIME. Title page. Introductions I and II.

March 16: Heidegger, B and T. Division I. 9-12, 14-16, 18, 25-36, 38, 40-41.

March 23: Heidegger, B and T. Division II. 45-50, 53-58, 60-64, 72-74, 82b.

March 30: Concluding remarks.

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
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.