

PSCI 5310 (W)
History of Political Thought
Tuesdays 8:35 – 11:25pm
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
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Contents

Course Description	p.1	Course Schedule	p.3
Evaluation at a Glance	p.2	Key Dates	p.6
Evaluation in Detail	p.2	Course Policies	p.6
Readings	p.3	Academic Accommodations	p.8

Course Description:

The history of political thought is sometimes perceived as being less accessible and less relevant to non-specialists than other sub-fields of Political Science. One principal objective of this course is to correct that perception. The history of political thought has established philosophical foundations and a shared vocabulary that political scientists of all sorts—theoretical and empirical—employ when they study, legitimacy, or democracy, or equality, or liberty, or justice, or other fundamental elements of political life. But, though the history of political thought undergirds, in a certain sense, our entire discipline, it has been anything but a history of harmony and agreement. The history of political thought has been a history of contestation, often over essential and inescapable questions of politics. If it accomplishes nothing else, studying the history of political thought—studying the diverse ways that different individuals in different historical contexts have approached, understood, and answered similar or related questions about political life—decisively undermines any suggestion, implicit or explicit, that there exists only one correct way to study politics or to answer political questions.

This course offers an advanced survey of selected works in the history of Western political thought. It was originally conceived for students needing to fulfill the Department's graduate theory requirement. Therefore, it is intended to appeal to all graduate students in Political Science, regardless of their background in political theory.

The primary objectives of this course will be: 1) to engage students in critical studies of selected texts in the history of modern political thought in seminar discussions and in written assignments; 2) to introduce students to methodological debates in the history of political thought; and 3) to encourage reflection on how the history of political thought fits into the discipline of Political Science more broadly and how students might incorporate studies in the history of political thought into their own work, whatever their particular research interests.

Evaluation at a Glance

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Seminar Participation | 30% |
| - Short Response Paper | 25% (Due February 2) |
| - Research Paper | 45% (Due April 10) |

Evaluation in Detail

Seminar Participation

Seminar participation is an integral component of this course. Each student's participation grade will be calculated on the basis of three elements: 1) Attendance; 2) Participation in seminar discussions; 3) Submission of discussion questions.

Attendance will be taken at each meeting of the seminar. In advance of the meetings in weeks 2-6 and 8-14, each student will submit one discussion question through Brightspace. The questions must be based on the readings for that week. They will structure parts of the seminar discussions.

For each meeting of the seminar that a student attends and submits a discussion question, they will receive one of the thirty percentage points assigned to participation in the course (up to a maximum of 12). The remaining eighteen percentage points will be assigned to reflect the quality of each student's participation in seminar discussions. By quality is meant their overall contribution to the scholarly environment of the seminar.

Participation grades will be discussed in detail in the January 9 pre-recorded lecture.

Short Response Paper

Each student will submit a short response paper (max. 2000 words), based entirely on course readings. These assignments will call for no further research. Detailed instructions for the assignment will be distributed through Brightspace.

The Response Papers will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on **February 2**. Late papers

will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Research Paper

Each student will be required to submit one research paper (max. 4500 words). Students will be responsible for designing their own research project. Each student must meet with the professor by March 15 to discuss their paper. Detailed instructions for the assignment will be distributed through Brightspace.

The term papers will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on **APRIL 10**. Late term papers will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Summary

Students are required to:

- 1) Participate in weekly meetings of the seminar having completed the assigned readings and submitted a discussion question online in advance (30%).
- 2) Submit one short response paper (25%).
- 3) Meet with the professor by March 15 to discuss their research project.
- 4) Submit one research paper (45%).

Readings:

All of the readings for this course are available in electronic format online and free of charge. Students who wish to purchase physical copies of any or all of the texts are welcome to consult with the professor to discuss available editions.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan. 9): Introduction to the Course

- NOTE: This lecture will be pre-recorded and available on Brightspace. All other meetings of the seminar will be conducted in person.

Week 2 (Jan. 16): Questions of Interpretation: Methodological Debates in the History of Political Thought

- Assigned Reading:
 - Leo Strauss, "Persecution and the Art of Writing", *Social Research*, 1941, Vol.8 (4), 488-504.

- Quentin Skinner, “Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas,” *History and Theory* Vol.8, No.1 (1969), 3-53.
- Penny Weiss, “The Politics of the Canon: Gatekeepers and Gate Crashers”, in *Canon Fodder: Historical Women Political Thinkers* (Penn State University Press, 2011).

Week 3 (Jan. 23): Niccolò Machiavelli

- Assigned Reading:
 - *The Prince* (1531)

Week 4 (Jan. 30): Étienne de la Boétie

- Assigned Reading:
 - *The Discourse of Voluntary Servitude* (1574)

Week 5 (Feb. 6): Thomas Hobbes

- Assigned Reading:
 - *Leviathan* (1651)
 - Introduction; Chapters 8-11, 13-22, 26, 29-30.

Week 6 (Feb. 13): John Locke

- Assigned Reading:
 - *The Second Treatise of Government* (1689)
 - Chapters 1-11; 14-15; 19

Week 7 (Feb. 20): No Lecture (Winter Break)

Week 8 (Feb. 27): David Hume

- Assigned Reading:
 - *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals* (1751)

Week 9 (March 5): Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Assigned Reading:
 - *On the Social Contract* (1762)
 - Books 1-2
 - Book 3 (chapters 1-3; 10-18)
 - Book 4 (chapters 1-2; 7-8)

Week 10 (March 12): Catharine Macaulay

- Assigned Reading:
 - *Catharine Macaulay: Political Writings*, edited by Max Skjönsberg (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023).
 - *Loose Remarks on Certain Positions to be Found in Mr. Hobbes's 'Philosophical Rudiments of Government and Society', with a Short Sketch of a Democratical Form of Government, in a Letter to Signor Paoli* (1767)
 - *An Address to the People of England, Scotland and Ireland on the Present Important Crisis of Affairs* (1775)
 - *Selections from Letters on Education, with Observations on Religious and Metaphysical Subjects* (1790)

Week 11 (March 19): Mary Wollstonecraft

- Assigned Reading:
 - *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792)
 - Dedication, Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-2

Week 12 (March 26): Alexis de Tocqueville

- Assigned Reading:
 - *Democracy in America* (1835, 1840)
 - Vol I: part I, ch.3,4; part II, ch.7-9
 - Vol. II: part I, ch.2, 4, 5; part II, ch.1-8; part III, ch.1-2; part IV, ch.1-6

Week 13 (April 2): Harriet Taylor/ John Stuart Mill

- Assigned Reading:
 - Taylor, "Enfranchisement of Women" (1851)
 - Excerpt
 - Mill, *Utilitarianism* (1861)
 - Part 2
 - Mill, *On Liberty* (1859)
 - Parts 1, 3, 4

Week 14 (April 9): Political Science, Political Theory, and the History of Political Thought

- Assigned Reading:

- Adrian Blau, “How (not to) Use the History of Political Thought for Contemporary Purposes”, *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 65, No. 2 (2021), 359–372.
- J.G.A. Pocock, “Theory in History: Problems of Context and Narrative”, in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*, 163-74.
- Arlene Saxonhouse, “Exile and Re-Entry: Political Theory Yesterday and Tomorrow”, in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*, 844-58.

Key Dates: Summary

Date	Topic	Assignment
January 9	Intro to the Course (pre-recorded)	
January 16	Questions of Interpretation	
January 23	Niccolò Machiavelli	
January 30	Étienne de la Boétie	
February 2		Response Paper Due
February 6	Thomas Hobbes	
February 13	John Locke	
February 20	No Class: Winter Break	
February 27	David Hume	
March 5	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	
March 12	Catharine Macaulay	
March 15		Deadline for meeting with the professor to discuss research projects
March 29	Mary Wollstonecraft	
March 26	Alexis de Tocqueville	
April 2	Harriet Taylor and John Stuart Mill	
April 9	Political Science, Political Theory, and the History of Political Thought	
April 10		Term Paper Due

Course Policies

Communication: When writing to the professor, no matter the purpose of your communication, please put PSCI5310 in the subject line of your email.

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 (response papers 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

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 justification (max. 1 page) 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 justification 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

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.