

PSCI 5310 (W)
History of Political Thought
Tuesdays 11:35am – 2:25pm
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:35-10:25am, or by appointment.
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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 through seminar discussions and 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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Seminar Participation | 30% |
| - Short Paper | 25% (Due February 7) |
| - Research Paper | 45% (Due April 8) |

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 7 introduction to the course.

Short Paper

Each student will submit a short response paper (max. 1500 words). Detailed instructions for the assignment will be distributed through Brightspace.

The Short Papers will be due in Brightspace by 11:59pm on **February 7**. Late papers will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Research Paper

Each student will be required to submit one research paper (max. 4000 words). Students will be responsible for designing their own research project. Each student must meet with the professor by March 14 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 8**. 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 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. 7): Introduction to the Course

Week 2 (Jan. 14): 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. 21): Niccolò Machiavelli

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

Week 4 (Jan. 28): Étienne de la Boétie

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

Week 5 (Feb. 4): Thomas Hobbes

- Assigned Reading:
 - *Leviathan* (1651)
 - Introduction; Chapters 4-6, 10-11, 13-22, 26, 29-30.

Week 6 (Feb. 11): John Locke

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

Week 7 (Feb. 18): No Lecture (Winter Break)

Week 8 (Feb. 25): David Hume

- Assigned Reading:
 - *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary*
 - “That Politics May be Reduced to a Science” (1741)
 - “Of the First Principles of Government” (1741)
 - “Of the Origin of Government” (1777)
 - “Of Parties in General” (1741)
 - “Of Superstition and Enthusiasm” (1741)
 - “Of Refinement in the Arts” (1752)
 - “Of the Original Contract” (1748)
 - “Of Passive Obedience” (1748)

Week 9 (March 4): 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 11): 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 18): Mary Wollstonecraft

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

Week 12 (March 25): 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 1): Harriet Taylor/ John Stuart Mill

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

Week 14 (April 8): 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 7	Intro to the Course	
January 14	Questions of Interpretation	
January 21	Niccolò Machiavelli	
January 28	Étienne de la Boétie	
February 4	Thomas Hobbes	
February 7		Short Paper Due
February 11	John Locke	
February 18	No Class: Winter Break	
February 25	David Hume	
March 4	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	
March 11	Catharine Macaulay	
March 14		Deadline for meeting with the professor to discuss research papers
March 18	Mary Wollstonecraft	
March 25	Alexis de Tocqueville	
April 1	Harriet Taylor and John Stuart Mill	
April 8	Political Science, Political Theory, and the History of Political Thought	
April 8		Research 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.

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	