Course Overview

How is the activity of studying the history of political thought best understood? What does it mean to read or interpret a text honestly? On what grounds do we distinguish persuasive from unconvincing interpretations of particular texts? Should a student of the history of political thought seek to understand the ways in which particular ideas or concepts have been debated, transformed, and developed over time, or should the student instead study particular deployments of ideas in particular historical and ideological contexts? To what extent are elements of the past retrievable? Should students aspire to ascertain the true intentions of the authors they study? If so, how do esoteric and exoteric readings of texts enter differently into that endeavour? How do we define a period in the history of political thought? Are there any perennial problems? Are truth and knowledge objective categories, or are they discursively structured? How does the notion of canonical texts shape the study of political theory? Why does the standard canon in the history of political thought include so few texts written by women philosophers? Are any of the primary concepts employed in the study of the history of political thought inherently gendered?

How we answer these and other related questions will shape the ways in which we read, interpret, and understand texts in the history of political thought. In this course, we will distinguish different methodological approaches and explore major methodological debates in the field with an eye to improving the intellectual rigour of our work as political theorists.

Readings:

All readings for this course will be held on reserve at MacOdrum Library or through ARES.
Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

One-Page Response Papers (x5) 25% (5% each)
Term Paper (6000 words) 50% (Due December 6)
Seminar Participation 25%

One-Page Response Papers

Each student must submit one response paper during five of the following six sets of weeks:

1) Weeks 2 & 3
2) Weeks 4 & 5
3) Weeks 6 & 7
4) Week 9
5) Weeks 10 & 11
6) Weeks 12 & 13

The response papers can be single-spaced in a font as small as 10pt. However, the page limit is firm. The papers should develop a critical discussion of the week’s readings. They should not merely summarize the readings. Students must upload their response papers to cuLearn no later than noon the day before the seminar for which they are written. Papers received after that time will not be accepted. Except in cases of documented medical conditions or other emergency personal circumstances, there will be no option to make up missed response papers.

Term Paper

Each student will be required to submit a term paper of roughly 6000 words in length. The term paper assignment will be distributed during the first seminar on September 6 and the papers will be due in the final seminar on December 6.

The final seminar of the term (December 6) will be set aside for student presentations of their term papers. Students will be allotted a maximum of ten minutes each to present an overview of their paper. The presentation will be considered part of the term paper assignment. Failure to present will result in a 5% deduction to the student’s grade for the course that will be applied over and above any penalty for late submission the student might incur.

Students must submit a physical copy of their term paper directly to the professor. Except with prior approval, email submissions will not be accepted. Late term papers will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Late Penalties:
Term papers submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of one third of a letter grade per day (including Saturdays and Sundays).

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious and documented medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Extensions will usually not be granted retroactively.

**Participation**

Participation grades will reflect each student’s overall contribution to the scholarly environment of the seminar. I expect students to arrive every week prepared to engage with their colleagues in a critical discussion of both the week’s readings and the one-page response papers.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (Sept. 6): Introduction to the Course**

**Week 2 (Sept. 13): The History of Ideas**

- Readings:

**Week 3 (Sept. 20): Berlin on Tracing the History of Political Thought**

- Readings:

**Week 4 (Sept. 27): Leo Strauss and Esotericism**
- Readings:
  
  
  

**Week 5 (Oct. 4): Strauss on Machiavelli**

- Readings:
  
  

**Week 6 (Oct. 11): Quentin Skinner and the “Cambridge School”**

- Readings:
  
  
  
  

**Week 7 (Oct. 18): Skinner on Hobbes**
- Readings:


**Week 8 (Oct. 25): No Seminar (Fall Break)**

**Week 9 (Nov. 1): Reinhart Koselleck’s Practice of Conceptual History**

- Readings:


**Week 10 (Nov. 8): Michel Foucault on Method**

- Readings:


**Week 11 (Nov. 15): Foucault on Raison d’État**

- Readings:
  

**Week 12 (Nov. 22): Feminist Approaches to the History of Political Thought**

- Readings:
  
  

**Week 13 (Nov. 29): Feminist Readings of Rousseau**

- Readings:
  
  - Penelope Deutscher, *Yielding Gender: Feminism, Deconstruction and the History of Philosophy,* (New York: Routledge, 1997), 1-10; 89-111.
  
  
  - Leah Bradshaw, “Rousseau on Civic Virtue, Male Autonomy, and the Construction of the Divided Female,” in Lynda Lange (ed.), *Feminist Interpretations of Jean-Jacques Rousseau,* (University Park,


Week 14 (Dec. 6): Term Paper Presentations

- Term Papers Due

Academic Accommodations

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 obligation
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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation
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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc
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 is 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

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 compete or perform 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 on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. 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/](https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/) and our website [https://carletonpss.com/](https://carletonpss.com/), or stop by our office in Loeb D688!

**Official Course Outline**
The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.