PSCI 6300 (F)
Political Theory I
Wednesdays, 8:35 – 11:25am
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
Office: Loeb A625
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:35-2:25, or by appointment
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Course Overview

The theme of this course will be the science of politics. Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Hume, and Montesquieu are notable in the history of political thought for their common concern with grounding the understanding of politics upon systematic, or scientific foundations. This course will focus on their five respective attempts at developing a science of politics.

We will devote two seminars to discussing each of the five thinkers under study in the course. Although we will focus each seminar on a particular portion of the assigned readings, students will be expected to have read all of the material for each thinker by the first seminar devoted to their work.

The final two seminars will be organized as a mini conference. Each student will present his or her research. A discussion period will follow each presentation. Students will have the opportunity to incorporate the feedback they receive during the mini conference into their essay before submitting it.

This course is designed for doctoral students who are preparing for their comprehensive examination in Political Theory; however, MA students are welcome to enroll in the seminar.

Readings:

We will read the following texts this term:

- Aristotle, *The Politics*
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*
- Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*
- Hume, *Essays, Moral, Political, And Literary* (selected essays)
- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Many of these texts are available online. Students who do not already own copies of particular texts and who wish to purchase them should consult the professor about which editions to select.

**Course Requirements and Grading Scheme**

- Essay (max. 25 pages) 50% *(Due Dec.15)*
- Presentations 25%
- Participation 25%

**Essay**

Each student will submit one essay (max. 25 pages). The essays will be due on December 15. All students should meet with the professor by November 1 to discuss their essay projects.

The last two seminars of the term will be set aside for essay presentations. Each student will give a 10-15 minute presentation of their essay. A discussion period will follow each presentation. As the final essays will not be due until Dec.15, students will have the opportunity to revise their essays after their presentations and prior to submitting their final drafts.

**Late Penalties:**

Students must submit a physical copy of their essay directly to the professor. Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of one half of a letter grade per day *(including Saturdays and Sundays)*.

**Presentations:**

The seminars will be structured around weekly student presentations of the readings. Each student will be required to make two such presentations during the term. As part of their presentations, students will be asked to upload a set of discussion questions to cuLearn. The discussion questions must be uploaded by noon the day prior to the presentation. Details about the presentations will be discussed during the first seminar (Sept.6).

**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 serious medical or other emergency personal reasons).
Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sept.6): Introduction to the Course
  - Discussion of syllabus
  - Sign-up for presentations

Week 2 (Sept.13): Aristotle: *The Politics*
  - Readings: *The Nicomachean Ethics* (Book X, chapters 6-9); *The Politics* (Books I-IV)

Week 3 (Sept.20): Aristotle: *The Politics*
  - Reading: *The Politics* (Books V-VIII)

Week 4 (Sept.27): Machiavelli: *The Prince and the Discourses*
  - Reading: *The Prince*

Week 5 (Oct.4): Machiavelli: *The Prince and the Discourses*
  - Reading: *Discourses on Livy*

Week 6 (Oct.11): Hobbes: *Leviathan*
  - Reading: *Leviathan* (Part I)

Week 7 (Oct.18): Hobbes: *Leviathan*
  - Reading: *Leviathan* (Part II; Part IV: chapter xlvi and “A Review and Conclusion”)

Week 8: (Oct.25): No Seminar (Winter Break)

Week 9 (Nov.1): Hume: *EPM, Essays, History*
  - Reading: *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Introduction); *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, “A Dialogue”

Week 10 (Nov.8): Hume: *EPM, Essays, History*
  - Readings: *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary* (selections); *The History of England* (selections)
Week 11 (Nov.15): Montesquieu: *The Spirit of the Laws*
- Reading: *The Spirit of the Laws* (Books 1-13)

Week 12 (Nov.22): Montesquieu: *The Spirit of the Laws*
- Reading: *The Spirit of the Laws* (Book 15:1-9, and Books 19-21, 24-6)

Week 13 (Nov.29): Mini Conference

Week 14 (Dec.6): Mini Conference

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**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:
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.