

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

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt  
Office: Loeb A625  
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:35-1:25, Fridays 10:35-11:25, or by appointment  
Phone: (613) 520-2600 x2959  
Email: marc.hanvelt@carleton.ca

---

**Course Overview**

This course will focus on a decidedly modern question: What renders political institutions and exercises of political power rightful? The question of political legitimacy has been central to the development of liberal political thought and touches upon a series of enduring questions of political theory that extend well beyond liberalism: Are political principles universal? To what extent are history and context relevant in politics? How should moral and political considerations be weighted? To what extent does politics involve applications of reason? Over the course of this term, we will explore these and other questions through a study of works by Locke, Hume, Montesquieu, Burke, Wollstonecraft, Paine, Kant, Mill, and Rawls.

The seminars will be structured around weekly student presentations of the readings. The final seminar of the term will be organised as a mini conference at which each student will present his or her research. 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, in whole or in part, this term:

- Locke: *Second Treatise of Government*
- Hume: *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary; History of England*
- Montesquieu: *The Spirit of the Laws*
- Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
- Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Men, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

- Paine: *Rights of Man*
- Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals; Metaphysics of Morals*
- Mill: *Utilitarianism; Representative Government; On Liberty*
- Rawls: *A Theory of Justice; Political Liberalism*

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% <b>(Due Dec.13)</b> |
| - Presentations         | 30%                     |
| - Participation         | 20%                     |

### **Essay**

Each student will submit one essay (max. 25 pages). Students will present their essay on December 5. They will have until December 13 to submit a final draft. Students must meet with the professor by November 1 to discuss their essay projects.

The final seminar of the term (Dec.5) will be set aside for the essay presentations. Each student will give a 10-15 minute presentation of their essay. A discussion period will follow each presentation. As the final date for essay submissions will be Dec.13, 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 December 13 will be subject to a penalty of one half of a letter grade per day.

### **Seminar Presentations:**

Each seminar will begin with student presentations of the readings. Students will be required to make three seminar 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.5).

### **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 medical or other emergency personal reasons).

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1 (Sept.5): Introduction to the Course**

- Discussion of syllabus, readings, presentations, and essays
- Sign-up for presentations

### **Week 2 (Sept.12): Locke**

- Reading: *Second Treatise of Government*

### **Week 3 (Sept.19): Hume**

- Readings:
  - o *Essays*: “Of the Origin of Government”; “Of the First Principles of Government”; “Of the Independency of Parliament”; “Of the Original Contract”; “Of Passive Obedience”
  - o *History of England*: 2.518 – 2.525; 4.354 – 386; 3.3 – 3.82
    - [References to Hume’s *History* are to volume and page numbers in *The History of England from the Invasion of Julius Caesar to the Revolution in 1688*. Forward by William B. Todd. 6 vols. 1778 Edition; rpt. (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1983).]

### **Week 4 (Sept.26): Montesquieu**

- Reading: *The Spirit of the Laws* (Books 1-13)

### **Week 5 (Oct.3): Montesquieu**

- Reading: *The Spirit of the Laws* (Book 15:1-9, and Books 19-21, 24-6)

### **Week 6 (Oct.10): Burke**

- Reading: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

### **Week 7 (Oct.17): Wollstonecraft, Paine**

- Readings:
  - o *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*
  - o *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (excerpts)
  - o *Rights of Man* (excerpt)

### **Week 8: (Oct.24): No Seminar (Winter Break)**

### **Week 9 (Oct.31): Kant**

- Reading: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

### **Week 10 (Nov.7): Kant**

- Reading:
  - “On the Common Saying: ‘This May be True in Theory, But it Does Not Apply in Practice’”
  - *Metaphysics of Morals* (Excerpt from “Introduction to the Theory of Right”; “The Theory of Right, Part II: Public Right”)

### **Week 11 (Nov.14): Mill:**

- Reading: *Utilitarianism* (II: “What Utilitarianism Is”); *On Liberty*

### **Week 12 (Nov.21): Mill**

- Reading: *Considerations on Representative Government*

### **Week 13 (Nov.28): Rawls**

- Reading:
  - *A Theory of Justice* (Part I, ch.1-6; Part II, ch.11; Part III, ch.20, 22, 24-25; Part IV, ch.36-37)
  - *Political Liberalism*: “The Idea of Public Reason Revisited”

### **Week 14 (Dec.5): Mini Conference**

---

## **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](http://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](https://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](mailto: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](https://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](https://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.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://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:

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. 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/> and our website <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.

---