

Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of Political Science

POLITICAL SCIENCE 6301. WINTER 2016

POLITICAL THEORY II

(This course is open to M.A. students)

Mondays 2:35 pm - 5:25 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

PROF. WALLER R. NEWELL

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Office hours: Tuesdays 12 noon to 3 pm.

Loeb D691. x 2765

THE CONQUEST OF NATURE

This course will focus on the precise characteristics of modern political theory and political modernity, crystallized as the *conquest of nature*. Classical political theory as typified by Plato and Aristotle had been premised on the assumption that the best way of life for human beings, and the best form of political community, would be found *within* the order of nature; that human nature fulfilled itself through the exercise of its moral and intellectual virtues as members of a deliberative political community. This was understood as against the arguments of the Sophists that human beings fulfilled themselves through the pursuit of individual power and self-advancement, at the expense of the common good. Beginning with Machiavelli, modernity defines itself as the summons to master or conquer nature through the exercise of human will-power, the capacity to stand entirely outside of nature and re-shape it, formerly reserved for God but now transferred to the human agency of the prince. Human fulfillment was now to be found by attempting to wrench *free* of nature's constraints in the pursuit of individual self-interest, the maximization of "security and well-being" for Princes and Peoples, as Machiavelli put it. As we will consider, this both was and was *not* a return to the Sophists' position, owing to the modern, post-Abrahamic conception of the will. We will examine the evolution of classical liberal political theory as a social contract maximizing every individual's net self-interest as a rights-bearing individual, the outgrowth of Machiavelli's original vision, as exemplified by the theories of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, including Rousseau's reservations about the modern project and his paradigmatic argument that the higher sphere of human life that the ancients had located in nature must, owing to the modern account of nature as matter in motion, be sought in the "ideal" realm of freedom. We will then consider the great counter-movement of historicism initiated by Hegel which sought to restore a holistic sense of human community and virtue, but within the time-bound processes of History rather than by a return to the classical teleological conception of nature, understood to have been refuted by the modern account of nature as matter in motion. Finally, we will look at some important contemporary political thinkers including Heidegger, Strauss, Kojève, Grant and Voegelin, grouped around the theme of global technology

as the final working-out of the modern project, and in particular at the debate between Strauss and Kojève over the character of modern versus ancient tyranny as a prism for reflecting on the character of political modernity as a whole.

Evaluation:

- 1) A term paper to be submitted at my office on the last day of the Winter term, Friday April 8, at 12 noon. 15 pages double-spaced typed. Worth 50% of grade.
- 2) Weekly oral presentations on the readings on an equally rotating basis. Worth 50% of grade.

Attendance and Lateness Policy:

- 1) Attendance is obligatory, not optional. Every student is expected to attend every class unless the student has a recognized medical or personal excuse for being absent.
- 2) Late papers will be penalized by half a grade a day after the final due date for submission.

Texts:

The readings from Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, Machiavelli, Bacon, Hobbes and Locke are all readily available free on line. The readings from Harrington and from the Strauss-Voegelin correspondence will be hand-outs. The readings from Rousseau, Hegel, Heidegger, and Grant will be on reserve at the Library. ON TYRANNY will be on order at the Bookstore.

LIST OF READINGS AND TOPICS:

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| Jan. 11 | Introductory Remarks. |
| Jan. 18. | Homer, ILIAD (selections); Plato, THEAETETUS; Diehl's Fragments of the Pre-Socratics (selections). |
| Jan 25 . | Aristotle, PHYSICS Book 2; POLITICS Books 1-3.
Xenophon, HIERO; EDUCATION OF CYRUS Book 1. |
| Feb.1. | Machiavelli, DISCOURSES (selections); THE PRINCE
Bacon, THE NEW ORGANON (selections) |
| Feb 8. | Hobbes, LEVIATHAN (selections) |

Locke, SECOND TREATISE OF GOVERNMENT (selections)
Harrington, OCEANA (selections)
THE FEDERALIST (selections)

WINTER BREAK

- Feb. 22. Rousseau, FIRST AND SECOND DISCOURSES; ON THE SOCIAL CONTRACT (Books 1 and 2).
- Feb 29 . Hegel, INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY; Preface, THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT.
- March 7. Heidegger, BEING AND TIME (Part One, selections); THE ANAXIMANDER FRAGMENT; AN ESSAY CONCERNING TECHNOLOGY.
- March 14. Strauss, ON TYRANNY with response by Kojève, re-statement by Strauss and Strauss-Kojève correspondence (selections).
Review of ON TYRANNY by Voegelin.
THE STRAUSS-VOEGELIN CORRESPONDENCE (selections)
- March 21. Grant, TYRANNY AND WISDOM; ENGLISH-SPEAKING JUSTICE; IN DEFENSE OF NORTH AMERICA; .
- March 28. New frontiers for the conquest of nature: the debate about transhumanism.
- April 4. Concluding remarks.

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:

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. 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.