POLITICAL SCIENCE 6301W
POLITICAL THEORY II.
LIBERALISM AND POLITICAL COMMUNITY.
Wednesdays 8:35 to 11:35 am.
Please confirm location on Carleton central

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Email: Waller_Newell@carleton.ca
Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 12 noon to 2:30 pm, LA D693

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The core course in Political Theory has several aims. One is to prepare students specializing in Political Theory for the Comprehensive Exam in the field, a summation of what has gone before and a preparation for those planning dissertations in Political Theory. Another is to equip doctoral students, again in conjunction with the exam, with a credential for teaching Political Theory courses at the undergraduate level. Finally, the course is open to graduate students at any level with an interest in political theory.

To this end, the course will examine some primary texts from the history of political thought both for their intrinsic content and as avenues for understanding contemporary approaches to the field. These primary texts are the points of departure for understanding contemporary approaches including critical theory, phenomenology, hermeneutics, post-modernism, political ontology and the liberal/communitarian debate.

This year our focus will be on liberalism and political community. Since its inception, modern political thought has assigned priority to what Michael Sandel terms the “unencumbered self.” This is the rights-bearing individual complete in its nature prior to the emergence of the social contract, and able to contract voluntarily to join that contract in order that the self-interest of the individual might be maximized. The epistemological concomitant of this rights-bearing individual is an ahistorical Cartesian self that has separated itself from all previous pre-modern traditions so as to be better able to calculate its self-interest undistracted by the claims of the larger community, faith, patriotism and heritage. Yet, beginning with Rousseau, it was increasingly felt within modern liberal discourse itself that the focus on the individual had to be supplemented with a positive account of the political community, and the civic and social virtues required to live in it, as something of more than purely instrumental value. What kind of character development, in other words, is necessary to mediate between the rights-bearing individual and a sense of community that is choiceworthy for its own sake and not merely on the
basis of material self-interest?
We will begin this discussion with a consideration of John Rawls’ A THEORY OF JUSTICE, still the most influential recent example of the social contract theory school originating in Hobbes and Locke, and critiques made of it from different perspectives by George Grant and Allan Bloom. This will be our point of departure for returning to the origins of modern civic and commercial republicanism in Machiavelli’s DISCOURSES, where the relationship between republican civic virtue and a politics explicitly devoted to procuring security and material well-being – in contrast to the classical emphasis on the common good – is explored at length. We will then consider how Machiavelli’s historically rounded and phenomenologically robust evocation of a politics of republican liberty at the service of power and prosperity is narrowed by Hobbes and Locke into a more explicitly materialistic, utilitarian and analytical argument on behalf of a social contract legitimized to the extent that it maximizes every individual’s security from violent death and the opportunity to enrich oneself through the pursuit of private property, abandoning Machiavelli’s broader concerns with the cycles of history, character and honour-seeking as an independent variable in political behaviour. We will conclude with Rousseau’s objection to this narrowing of the meaning of human happiness and in the social contract school and his search for a psychologically richer basis for modern political life and a way of re-connecting individual self-interest to a broader and deeper sense of solidarity within historically grounded political communities.

REQUIREMENTS AND BASIS OF GRADING:  1) Weekly seminar presentations on the assigned readings, on an equally rotating basis. Worth 50% of grade.  2) A seminar research paper of 25 pages. Worth 50% of grade. Due April 4 at my office at 12 noon.

TEXTS (*On order at the Bookstore):
1. John Rawls.  A THEORY OF JUSTICE.* (Also on reserve in library).

2. George Grant, ENGLISH-SPEAKING JUSTICE.*


4. Niccolo Machiavelli. DISCOURSES ON LIVY.*

5. Niccolo Machiavelli, THE PRINCE.*

5. Thomas Hobbes. LEVIATHAN.*

6. Jean-Jacques Rousseau. BASIC POLITICAL WRITINGS.*

7. THE FEDERALIST (On reserve in the Political Science Resource Centre).
RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READING (On reserve in Political Science Resource Centre:)

1. R. H. Tawney. RELIGION AND THE RISE OF CAPITALISM.


3. Louis Hartz. THE LIBERAL TRADITION IN AMERICA.


5. Peter C. Emberley and Waller R. Newell. BANKRUPT EDUCATION: THE DECLINE OF LIBERAL EDUCATION IN CANADA. Chapters 5-6

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Jan. 4: Week 1. Introductory Remarks. Liberalism, community and character.


Grant, ENGLISH-SPEAKING JUSTICE. Bloom, “Justice.”


Feb. 15: Week 7. LEVIATHAN Chapters 16-end.

WINTER BREAK

Feb. 29: Week 8. Locke, SECOND TREATISE ON GOVERNMENT Chapters 1-5.

March 7: Week 9. SECOND TREATISE, Chapters 6 - end.

SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES:

Charles Taylor, SOURCES OF THE SELF.

Juergen Habermas, THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Michel Foucault, DISCIPLINE AND PUNISH.

Hannah Arendt, THE HUMAN CONDITION.

Jacques Derrida, DISSEMINATION.

Carol Pateman, PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC THEORY.

Stanley Rosen, HERMENEUTICS AS POLITICS.

George Grant, ENGLISH-SPEAKING JUSTICE.

Sheldon Wolin, POLITICS AND VISION.

Eric Voegelin, THE NEW SCIENCE OF POLITICS.

Leo Strauss, NATURAL RIGHT AND HISTORY.

Martha Nussbam, THE FRAGILITY OF GOODNESS.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, DEMOCRACY ON TRIAL.

Hans-Georg Gadamer, REASON IN THE AGE OF SCIENCE.

J.G.A. Pocock, THE MACHIAVELLIAN MOMENT.

Hannah Pitkin, FORTUNE IS A WOMAN.

Quentin Skinner, THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT.

John Rawls, A THEORY OF JUSTICE.
Werner Marx, HEIDEGGER
Charles Taylor, HEGEL.

Jean Hyppolite, GENESIS AND STRUCTURE OF HEGEL’S PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT

John Rawls, A THEORY OF JUSTICE.

Catherine Zuckert, POSTMODERN PLATOS

Michael Sandel, LIBERALISM AND THE LIMITS OF JUSTICE

Ronald Beiner, POLITICAL JUDGEMENT.

**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **(November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations)**.

**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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** The following is the Carleton University grading system.

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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**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.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.