PSCI 1100a
Introduction to Political Science I: Democracy in Theory and Practice
Department of Political Science

Instructor: Prof. Farhang Rajaee  Office: Loeb A627
Phone: 520 2600 X 2800    OHs: Wednesday 9:00-10:30 and Tuesday 9:30-11:00
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Lectures: Wednesday 11:35 – 13:25, Southam Hall; Kailash Mital Theatre

Description. What do people mean when they talk about “democracy” and how does that understanding relates to politics? Many take them as synonymous. What is the relation of the two concepts? Do they entail power, freedom, or the good? What is the role of the individual in the political? Is this a privilege for the individual to engage in politics or an obligation? What does it mean when it is said by Gibran Khalil Gibran and popularized by John F. Kennedy to “ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country?” Maybe one can ask the following: As citizen of a particular country or citizen of the world “what together can we do for the freedom of man” and the enhancement of the humanity? Should we resist power for freedom and the good, and if so, how? Do democracy and the political have a history and, perhaps, a geography, and what might they look like? What particular rules, procedures and institutions help enhance the manifestation of democracy and the political? Does geography of East or West affect these forms and institutions, and if so how? How has the globalized world and the third wave of human changes, i.e., information revolution influenced the ways in which people practice politics? Have these changes affected democracy and the political and if so how?

This course will take up these and other questions about the working of democracy and politics. We will study the role of the individual agent through the lens of certain major thinkers, past and present, paying special attention to what they understand by the role of the individual. Then, we explore the rule of game that makes democracy and politics work. We further look at the arena where the individual and rules of the game manifest themselves. The form this arena has
taken in the past five centuries has been the state, so the last part of the class concentrate on state and its development, particularly its contemporary position in the age of connected world of globalization.

**Required Texts:** There are three required books for the course, ordered for purchase from the Carleton University Bookstore.


**Evaluation:** The following components determine the final grade in PSCI 1100.

Regular attendance in the lectures is of utmost importance and not only help you grasp the reading and the discussion, it is a major part of your “JOB” as students, hence no grade assigned for it. So is, doing the required readings associated with each session in advance of the lecture.

- **Attendance and Participation (particularly in discussion groups)** 15%
- **Review** 15% (Due date: **11 Oct 2017**)
- **Research paper** 30% (Due date: **8 Nov 2017**)
- **Final exam** 40% (Exam period, **10-22 Dec 2017**)

**Attendance and Participation:** All students must attend a discussion group on a regular basis. Students are required to prepare for the group sessions and contribute actively to the clarifying the material in the groups. Teaching assistants (TAs) will give further instructions on these points.

**Review:** In order to provide early feedback to students on their performance in the course, there will be a short review assignment. Student will choose a reading for a session or a chapter of one of the textbook and discuss, NOT SUMMARIZE what the author (1) has aimed; how (2) has argued the material, and an (3) evaluation of the content.

**Research paper:** The main written assignment will be a paper of 6-8 pages (12 points font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, i.e., 2000-2500 words). Students are encouraged to choose a topic in consultation with the Professor or TAs. Advice on research will be given in class. The four main criteria are: *Clarity; Coherence;*
Papers will follow the rules for citation and referencing which have been discussed throughout the term; marks will be deducted from the paper grade if this is not the case.

**Final exam:** There will be a three-hour exam at the end of term, which will take place during the formal exam period (Dec 10-22). The exam will be a combination of short answers and essay questions. It will cover all of the course material, including the required readings. Advice on exam preparation will be given in class. **Students are reminded not to make any travel arrangements before they have checked the examination schedule.**

**Submission of Coursework:** All written assignments must be submitted as hardcopies to the instructor at the beginning of the lecture. For late assignments, the drop box in the Department of Political Science may be used. This box is located outside of the departmental office (B640 Loeb Building); it is emptied every weekday at 4 p.m. and papers are date-stamped with that day’s date. Unless a specific exception has been arranged, assignments sent per email will not be accepted. Written assignments will be returned in the discussion groups (not in the lectures). The final exam can be viewed during the instructor’s office hours, but will remain in the university’s possession. Unless a medical (or equivalent) excuse is provided, late assignments will be penalized by two (2) percentage points per day (including weekends); assignments more than a week late will receive a mark of 0%. Unexcused failure to show up for the final exam will result in a grade of 0% on the exam.

**NOTE 1: Email communication;** Any email communication sent to the professor and teaching assistants should have as its subject heading: PSCI 1100A. Carleton requires that students, staff and faculty use Carleton email accounts when conducting University business. As stipulated above, course work will not be accepted by email.

**NOTE 2: Students must complete all course requirements in order to receive a passing grade, and no grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean.**

**Lecture Schedule:** Below is the lecture schedule for the course, including assigned readings for each lecture. Students are expected to attend all lectures. It is also strongly recommended that students bring their textbook to class for lectures, as the lectures will often make explicit reference to passages or sections from required readings.
W-Sept. 6: Introduction (Churchill, Lincoln and Pericles, CULearn)
  The Political, Regimes and democracy
  The Course

  **The Citizen (Actor)**

W- Sept. 13: The Human Condition (Arendt, 1-78)
  The Human, personal, social or political
  The World, private, collective, common

W- Sept. 20: Labour and Work (Arendt, 79-174)
  Labour and its consequence
  Work and its consequence

W- Sept. 27: Action (Arendt, 175-247)
  Beginning and Boldness
  Homo civitas

W- Oct. 4: Modern Age, the Good (Arendt, pp. 248-325)
  The Modern World
  Action now

  **Rules of the Game (Isonomy)**

W- Oct. 11: “Self-Understanding” (Taylor, 1-67)
  Modern Moral Order, the new imaginary
  Dis-embedding

W- Oct. 18: “Social Self-Understanding” (Taylor, 69-107)
  The Economy
  Public Space and Public Rule

W- Oct. 25: Fall Break

W- Nov. 1: Modern Society (Taylor, 109-161)
  The Sovereign People
  Comprehensive-Horizontal Society

W- Nov. 8: Secularity (Taylor, 163-196)
  Nation and or in History
  God and Society
Institutions (Dignity)
W- Nov. 15: State and Modernity (Pierson, CC 1-2)
   State and or in History
   State and Modernity

W- Nov. 22: State, Society and Economy (Pierson, CC 3-5)
   Society, economy and State
   Citizens and State

W- Nov. 29: State and the World (Pierson, CC 6-7)
   The World and the State
   State and the Future

W- Dec. 6: Conclusion
   Conquest and Subjugation
   Statesmanship and Empowerment

Recommended Readings

On the Citizen (Actor)


**On Rules of the Game (Isonomy)**


**On Institutions (Dignity)**


**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
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:

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<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>80-84</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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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.