

Carleton University
Fall 2012
Department of Political Science

PSCI 3308 A
Modern Political Thought
Thursday 08:35 a.m. — 11:25 a.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Robert Sibley
Office: B643
Office Hours: Friday: 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
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- **Course description**

- - *Content* — One of the fundamental political questions of modernity is: What is the proper relationship between the individual and the community (or state)? This question provides the backdrop to our survey of modern political thinkers — Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Nietzsche and Heidegger. Each of these thinkers addressed this question in one way or another, albeit from different perspectives. Using this question as a kind of thematic linchpin, we shall inquire into the shifting understanding of the modern consciousness. Along the way we shall see why Machiavelli has been called the “first modern man,” examine Hobbes’s “politics of fear,” consider Rousseau’s revolutionary view of society, look at why Nietzsche thought a politics of “nobility” was the best antidote to life as a “last man,” and address Heidegger’s search for a way out of the magic circle of technology.
 - *Objectives* — The basic purpose of the course is to give students an overview of the development and changing nature of modern political thought, with particular attention to concepts of the individual and the state, freedom and duty, anarchy and tyranny, etc. — all with a view to exploring the tensions and conflicts within modernity. Attention will be paid to the wars of religion, the rise the nation-state, the appearance of modern natural science, the secularization of the West and the emergence of liberal democracy.

- **Texts**

- - *Niccolo Machiavelli* — The Prince, Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield, second edition, University of Chicago Press, 1998.
 - *Thomas Hobbes* — Leviathan, Edited by Richard Tuck and Michael Silverthorne, Cambridge, 1998.
 - *Jean-Jacques Rousseau* — The First and Second Discourses, trans. Judith Masters. Edited by Roger Masters, St. Martin’s Press, 1964; and On the Social Contract: With Geneva Manuscript and Political Economy, Edited by Roger Masters. Bedford Books, 1978.
 - *G.W.F. Hegel* – Introduction to The Philosophy of History, with an appendix from The Philosophy of Right, Translated by Leo Rauch, Hackett Publishing Co., 1988.
 - *Friedrich Nietzsche* — The Nietzsche Reader, edited by Keith Ansell Pearson and Duncan Large, Oxford, Blackwell Publications., 2006. (NOTE: This book is available to students through the Carleton University Library as an ELECTRONIC RESOURCE.)
 - *Martin Heidegger* -- Basic Writings : from Being and time (1927) to The task of thinking (1964), Edited, with general introduction and introductions to each selection by David Farrell Krell. Harper San Francisco, 1993.
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 - Students are recommended to obtain these editions as they will be the ones referred to during the lectures. All are widely available. That said, all of the books can be obtained various versions and translations inexpensively as APP downloads or as E-Books. However, students may have trouble

following along when particular passages or pages are referred to during the lectures. The choice, and the responsibility, rests with the student.

- **Evaluation**

- **Participation** (especially discussion) and **Attendance** — 10%. Experience (and common sense) shows that students who attend class regularly do better than those who don't. Indeed, showing up and engaging can mean the difference between, say, a B+ and an A-.
- **Mid-term Essay** — Six to Eight double-spaced pages. Topics will be offered, but students can also choose one of their own. To be discussed and approved beforehand. **Due Oct. 18.** Worth 20%
- **Final Essay** — Twelve to Fifteen double-spaced pages. Topic to be discussed and approved beforehand. **DUE no later than Dec. 3.** Worth 30%
- **Final Take-Home Exam** — To be handed out in class on Nov. 29. **Due no later than Dec. 19.** Worth 40%
- All essays and the take-home exam are to be submitted in hard copy (paper) format, either in class or through the departmental drop box. **E-mail submissions will NOT be accepted.**
- **Grading:** Papers will be graded in terms of clarity, thematic focus, organizational structure, topical justification and coherence of argument and analysis as they pertain to course readings and lectures. Points will be deducted for spelling and grammatical errors (one point for each error). University of Chicago footnote/endnote standards apply.
- **Lateness policy:** Marks will be deducted at a rate of 3% for each day the paper is overdue. Please note: **Essays** are to be submitted in class or during departmental office hours. In any case, essays submitted via the drop box will be assessed a **late penalty** if handed in later than 4 p.m. on the due date. The **Take-Home Exam** must be submitted via the departmental drop box **NO LATER** than 4 p.m. on December 19. Exams submitted after this date will not be accepted unless by previous arrangement – and with a justifiable reason – with the instructor.

- **Class Schedule**

- Week 1 — September 6 — Introductory lecture regarding distinctions between pre-modern political thought and modern political thought, relating in particular the “new science of politics” as a response a world without God. An introduction to Machiavelli as the “first modern man.” *The Prince*. READING: Dedication, Chapters 1-9.
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- Week 2 — September 13 — Machiavelli's *Prince*. READING: Chapters 15-26.
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- Week 3 — September 20 — Hobbes' *Leviathan*. READING: Epistle Dedicatory, Preface, Liberty, Chapters 1-14. At issue is the question of absolute sovereignty versus “the war of all against all,” and the “social contract” as necessary to political legitimacy and social order.
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- Week 4 — September 27 — Hobbes' *Leviathan*. READING: Chapters 5-14.
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- Week 5 – October 4 – Rousseau, READING: *Discourse on the Sciences and Arts (First Discourse)*. READING: Pages 32-64; and *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality (Second Discourse)*, Preface – pages 91-98 and Part One, pages 101-141.
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- Week 6 — October 11 — Rousseau, READING: *Social Contract*, Books 2 and 3. The General Will as the basis of a legitimate state and the reason for the state's authority.
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- Week 7 — October 18 — Hegel. READING: *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, Chapters 1 and 2: “The Methods of History” and “Reason in History.”
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- **(Mid-Term essay due, and to be handed in at the end of the Oct. 18 class)**
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- Week 8 — October 25 — Hegel, READING: *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, Chapters 3 and 4: Freedom, the Individual and the State” and “History in its Development.” The state as the attainment of human freedom?
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- *Week 9* — November 1 — Nietzsche, READING: from The Nietzsche Reader, Chapter 12, “On the utility and liability of history for life.”
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- *Week 10* — November 8 — Nietzsche, READING: from The Nietzsche Reader, Chapter 19, Beyond Good and Evil, in particular Section Nine, “What is Noble?”
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- *Week 11* – November 15 -- Heidegger. READING: from Basic Writings, Chapter 7, “The Question Concerning Technology.”
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- *Week 12* — November 22 — Heidegger, READING: from Basic Writings, Chapter 4, “The Origin of the Work of Art.”
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- *Week 13* — November 29 — Concluding lecture and review -- with a special emphasis on Heidegger’s essay in Chapter 5, “Letter on Humanism” from Basic Writings -- with a view to summarizing the theme of the changing nature of the relationship between the individual and the community in the modern era.
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- **Final TERM ESSAY due on this date and through to Dec. 3. To be handed in at the end of class or in the departmental drop box. Those students wishing to receive their term paper through the mail can attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper when they submit it.**
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- **FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM will also be handed out in this last class on Nov. 29. NOTE: All take-home exams are due no later than Dec. 19. Only in exceptional circumstances, and subject to the instructor’s prior approval, will exams submitted after this date be accepted.**
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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 9th, 2012 for December examinations and March 8th, 2013 for April 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: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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

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.