

**PSCI 1001 (P)**  
**Great Political Questions**  
Tuesday 15:35-17:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt  
Office: Loeb D699 (I will be moving offices part way through the Fall term. My new office will be Loeb B644. When the move takes place, I will post an announcement on WebCT.)  
Office Hours: Mondays 1:35-3:25, Wednesdays 10:35-12:25, or by appointment  
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**Course Description:**

What does it mean to behave morally? How do we distinguish moral from immoral behaviour? Do all people make moral judgments in the same way regardless of the historical or cultural context in which they live? To what extent are we bound by moral duty?

In this course, we will critically examine four different conceptions of morality and moral judgment from the perspective of two broad historical debates: we will look at Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics against David Hume's sentiment-based conception of morality, followed by John Rawls' theory of justice as an alternative to John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism. These four conceptions of morality will inform how we address one of the most prominent moral questions currently facing citizens and politicians of liberal democratic states: how to determine the scope and nature of the moral obligations they face as they respond to perceived threats of terrorism. We will use Michael Ignatieff's book *The Lesser Evil: Political Ethics in an Age of Terror* as a core text for our discussion of this question.

**Required Texts:**

Available at the Carleton University Bookstore

- ◆ David Hume, *An Enquiry Into the Principles of Morals*
- ◆ Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
- ◆ John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays*

- ♦ John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*
- ♦ Michael Ignatieff, *The Lesser Evil: Political Ethics in an Age of Terror*

**WebCT:** [<http://webct6.carleton.ca>]

Important course announcements and course materials (syllabus, reading guides, discussion questions for tutorials, essay questions) will be posted on WebCT. Please ensure that you have access to WebCT and consult it regularly.

### **Reading Guides:**

Reading guides for Hume, Kant, Mill, and Rawls will be made available through WebCT.

### **Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:**

Tutorial Participation	10%
Essay #1	25% <b>(Due Oct. 14)</b>
Essay #2	25% <b>(Due Nov.11)</b>
Final Examination	40%

**(to be scheduled during the formal exam period Dec 4-20<sup>th</sup> 2008)**

### **Tutorial Participation**

Tutorial participation is an integral component of this course. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions of their TA, engage critically with the course readings and, through discourse with their fellow students, develop better and more nuanced understandings of the ideas and debates that we will be covering in the course.

Each student's tutorial participation grade (worth 10% of the final grade) will be based on the quality (not necessarily the quantity) of his or her participation in the tutorial discussions. In order to earn a top grade for participation, a student must contribute positively to the learning atmosphere of his or her tutorial group. Among other requirements, this entails regular attendance, participation that is respectful of other students and the TA, and demonstration that the student has done the week's reading, thought critically about it in advance of the tutorial session, and arrived prepared to pose questions and critically discuss the reading with his or her fellow students.

### **Essays**

Each student will be required to submit two short essays during the term. The essays will be comparative in nature and will each count for 25% of the student's final grade. Each essay must be 6-8 double-spaced pages in length (12 point font, margins of at least ¾ inch).

The first essay will address a question related to the thought of Hume and Kant. The second will address a question related to the thought of Mill and Rawls. Students will be given a choice of questions for each essay. The essay questions will be posted on WebCT.

The first essay (Hume/Kant) will be due on **OCTOBER 14** at the beginning of each student's tutorial. As per early feedback guidelines, this assignment will be returned by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The second essay (Mill/Rawls) will be due on **NOVEMBER 11** at the beginning of each student's tutorial. Students must submit physical copies of their essays directly to their TA. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Late essays will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Students who are unable to submit their essay on time to their TA may deposit it in the Departmental "Drop Box" (a mail slot in the wall) located in the corridor outside of room B640 Loeb. Assignments are retrieved once every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. Assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped as received the next business day.

### **Late Penalties:**

Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day (**including Saturdays and Sundays**). Essays submitted on the due date but after the student's tutorial meeting will be considered late and will be assessed a penalty of 1.5%.

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious and **documented** medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Requests for extensions submitted after the due date will not be considered. It is the students' responsibility to manage their time effectively.

### **Final Examination**

The final examination will be held during the regularly scheduled exam period. It will be cumulative (i.e. all material covered in the course will be examinable), and will be comprised of essay questions. The final examination will count for 40% of each student's final grade.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that involves presenting another person's ideas, arguments, or words as one's own either through deliberate fraud or on account of inaccurate or improper documentation. The penalties for plagiarism are very severe.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their professor if they have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

### Academic Support:

If you require research, computer or learning support services, please consult the Carleton University Learning Commons at [http://www.library.carleton.ca/learning\\_commons/](http://www.library.carleton.ca/learning_commons/)

For help with academic writing and related issues, please consult the Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service (<http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>).

### Lecture Schedule:

- Week 1 (Sept. 9):** Introduction and distribution of syllabus
- Week 2 (Sept. 16):** Hume, *An Enquiry Into the Principles of Morals* (Sections 1-5)
- Week 3 (Sept. 23):** Hume, *An Enquiry Into the Principles of Morals* (Section 9; Appendices 1-3)
- Week 4 (Sept. 30):** Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (p.1- paragraph ending with “the concept of duty arises from it” on p.24)
- Week 5 (Oct. 7):** Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (pp.24-51)
- Week 6 (Oct. 14):** Mill, “Utilitarianism” (I-III)
- Week 7 (Oct. 21):** Mill, “Utilitarianism” (IV-V)
- Week 8 (Oct. 28):** Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Part I, ch.1-6)
- Week 9 (Nov. 4):** Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Part II, ch.11; Part III, ch.20, 22, 24-25; Part IV, ch.36-37)
- Week 10 (Nov. 11):** Ignatieff, *The Lesser Evil* (ch.1-2)
- Week 11 (Nov. 18):** Ignatieff, *The Lesser Evil* (ch.3-4)
- Week 12 (Nov. 25):** Ignatieff, *The Lesser Evil* (ch.5-6)

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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 9500 University Drive) 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 I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than 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 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, 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](http://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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

**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.

**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.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your 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](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.