

Carleton University

Fall Term 2009

Department of Political Science

PSCI 2300A

History of Political Thought

Monday 8:35 to 9:25am, Wednesday 8:35 to 9:25am

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Fall Term

Instructor: Dr. K.C. Fitzpatrick
Office: B646 Loeb
Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext. 1598 (no voicemail)
Office Hours: Wed. 1-2 p.m.
Email: kfitzpat@connect.carleton.ca

Winter Term

Instructor: Hans-Martin Jaeger
Office: C678 Loeb
Telephone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 2286
Office Hours: TBA
Email: Hans-Martin_Jaeger@carleton.ca

Course Description

This Course is an introduction to Classical, Christian and “Great Modern” western political philosophers. The aim and objective of this course is to introduce students to foundational texts in the Western tradition and give them the opportunity to experience a first hand engagement with political philosophy. To this end, students will be required to read extended selections from the original texts in order that they gain an understanding, not only of the content and controversies of the political questions interrogated therein; but will learn to do by doing. In political philosophy, the “how” of the process is equally as important as the “what” and students are expected to demonstrate, in their essay and exam answers that they have struggled to define and rationally assess the questions under discussion themselves, as well as demonstrating a clear and competent grasp of the thoughts and ideas encountered in the reading and lecture material. One of the key lessons of studying the writings

of Classical, Christian and Modern, authors is that while there may be no “answer” to the questions of political philosophy, the questions themselves are eternal and enduring.

Pondering politics in a philosophical manner is to actually engage in the process of thinking as an end in itself. Philosophy is derived from the Greek for the love of wisdom; and to seek wisdom concerning politics is to encounter the limits and possibilities of human nature and its place in the world. As each thinker encounters his own search for the truth, he turns to his own reflections and experience in light of those who went before him. Political philosophy is a living tradition and this class is an invitation to join the great human conversation, in the words of Hannah Arendt in the eternal now, between past and future.

Sources:

1. A Student’s Guide to Political Philosophy, Harvey C. Mansfield, ISI Guides, ISBN 9781882926435
2. Sophocles: Antigone, Hackett, ISBN 9780872205710
3. Plato: “The Apology of Socrates” in The Last Days of Socrates, Penguin Classics, ISBN 9780140449280
4. Plato: The Republic, Basic Books, 2nd Edition with an Introduction by Allan Bloom, ISBN 9780465069347
5. Aristotle: The Nicomachean Ethics, Penguin Classics, ISBN 9780140449495
6. Aristotle: The Politics, Penguin Classics, ISBN 9780140444216
7. The Bible: Authorized King James Version, Oxford World Classics, ISBN 0192835254
8. St. Augustine of Hippo: Confessions, Penguin Classics, ISBN 9780140441147
9. St. Augustine of Hippo, Political Writings, Hackett, ISBN 9780872202108
10. St. Thomas Aquinas on Politics and Ethics; A Norton Critical Edition, ISBN 9780393952438

You should use ONLY the exact texts ordered for the course, as we will be making continuous reference to page numbers and passages from these editions. Other translations can be misleading, and their use will make it very difficult to follow the lectures. You are required to bring the book we are reading to class.

As one of the key aims and objectives of this course is to encourage students in the validity and value of their own thoughts and ideas, the required readings in this class are taken directly from the original texts and not from derivative and secondary source material. While the use of simplified explanatory materials (whether from “short introductory texts” or websites) may seem tempting when

confronted and disconcerted by unfamiliar styles, complex ideas and challenging material, this after all is actual point of the exercise and a necessary part of the learning process. Rather than helping, such materials will actively hurt you academically and more importantly, possibly harm your own intellectual growth and confidence as a human being. Besides boring you to tears, they will overwhelm you with information of the worst kind and prevent you from doing the one thing that is key to success in this class, thinking for yourself.

Use and/or citation of secondary materials of any kind in essays or exams is **strictly forbidden** and will result in a failing grade.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

15% Tutorial Participation (Weekly)

30% 1st Essay “Classical” (5 – 7 pp., due Oct 21st.)

30% 2nd Essay “Christian” (5 – 7 pp., due Dec 2nd.)

25% 1st Mid-Term Exam (To be scheduled during formal exam period (Dec. 9 – 22))

The Exam will be 3hrs and contain two sections: the first will be a choice of 4 short answer questions out of a possible 6; (40%); the second section will be a choice of two essay questions from a choice of 5 (60%).

General Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

Part 1 – Dr. Fitzpatrick

Class 1: Mon. Sept. 14 – Introduction: Classical and Christian Thought: Natural Order and Human Nature.

Readings: A Student’s Guide to Political Philosophy

Class 2: Wed. Sept. 16 - Greek Tragedy and the Theme of Hubris

Readings: Sophocles: Antigone

Class 3: Mon. Sept. 21 – Socratic Philosophy, the Greek Polis and the Dialectic of Sophistry and Wisdom

Readings: “The Apology of Socrates”

Class 4: Wed. Sept. 23 – Plato: Political Authority and Ethical Responsibility

Readings: Plato’s Republic Bks. 1 - 3

Class 5: Mon. Sept. 28 – Plato’s Republic: the Dialectic of Justice as revealed in the tension between the competing goods of the City and the Soul

Readings: Plato’s Republic Bks. 4 - 5

Class 6: Wed. Sept. 30 – Plato’s Republic: The Philosopher King and the Nature of the Good.

Readings: Plato’s Republic Bks. 6 - 7

Class 7: Mon. Oct. 5 – Plato’s Republic: Justice As an End in Itself

Readings: Plato’s Republic Bks. 8 - 10

Class 8: Wed. Oct. 7 – Aristotle: Virtue, Ethics and the Good Life

Readings: Nichomachean Ethics Bks. 1, 2, and 10

Mon. Oct. 12 – University Closed – No Classes

Class 9: Wed. Oct. 14 - Aristotle: Ordered to a Purpose; The Citizen and the State

Readings: The Politics, Bk. 1, (i, - iii); Bk. 2, (i – v), Bk. 3, (i – iv)

Class 10: Mon. Oct. 19 – Aristotle’s Politics Continued

Readings: The Politics, Bk. 3, (ix – xiii), Bk. 4, (i – iv) + (xi – xii), Bk. 7, (i - iii) + (xiii – xv)

Class 11: Wed. Oct. 21 - The Old Testament: Judeo-Christian Themes of Creation, Origin and the Sacred Covenant.

Readings: - The King James Bible: Genesis

Class 12: Mon. Oct. 26 – The Old Testament Continued: Divine Justice; Israel and the Sacred Cycle of Sin and Redemption

Readings: Exodus

Class 13: Wed. Oct. 28 - The Old Testament: Justice and Faith

Readings: - The King James Bible: The Book of Job

Class 14: Mon. Nov. 2 - The New Testament: Christ and the Transformative Power of Love

Readings: - The King James Bible: Matthew: 1 - 5, 9 – 11, 13, 16 – 18, 22 and 25, Mark: 4, 7, 9, 12 – 13, Luke: 3 – 9, 12, 15, 21 and 24

Class 15: Wed. Nov. 4 – The New Testament: The Word Made Flesh and the Works of Charity

Readings: Book of John

Class 16: Mon. Nov. 9 - The New Testament: The Resurrection and the Universal Church.

Readings: The King James Bible: Acts 9 and the Book of Paul: Romans, Corinthians I and II

Class 17: Wed. Nov. 11 – Paul Continued: Salvation By Grace and the New Covenant.

Readings: Book of Paul: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Hebrews

Class 18: Mon. Nov. 16 - Augustine: Pagan Pride and the Fall of Man

Reading: - Augustine's Confessions; Books 1 - 3

Class 19: Wed. Nov. 18 – Confessions Continued: The insufficiency of Reason and the Power of Faith

Readings: Augustine's Confessions Books 4, 7 - 9

Class 20: Mon. Nov. 23 – Augustine: Divine Authority and the Roman State

Readings: - Augustine Political Writings: Selections from The City of God, Bk. 2: Chaps. 14, 19, 21, 29, Bk. 4: Chaps. 4 and 33, Bk. 5: Chaps. 9, 15 – 19.

Class 21: Wed. Nov. 25 – City of God Continued, The Origin of the Two Cities and the Free choice of the Will

Readings Bk. 8: Chaps. 3, 5, 6 and 8, Bk. 10: Chaps. 3, 14, Bk. 11, Bk. 12: Chaps. 1, 4, 6, 24, Bks. 13 - 15 Bk. 18: Chaps. 2, 37, 39 41 and 54.

Class 22: Mon. Nov. 30 – City of God Continued: Divine Providence and The Historical Transformation of the World

Readings: City of God, Bk. 19: Chaps. 1, 4, 12 and 13, 15 – 17, 21 and 24, Bk. 20: Chap. 1, 2, 11 and 30, Bk. 21: Chaps. 8, 16, 24 and Bk. 22: Chaps. 1, 6, 29 and 30.

Class 23: Wed. Dec. 2 – St. Thomas Aquinas; Classical and Christian Synthesis and the Perfection of a Christian Commonwealth

Readings: St. Thomas Aquinas on Politics and Ethics, The Summa against the Gentiles Bks. 1 - 4

Class 24: Mon. Dec. 7 – St. Thomas cont'd: The Breakdown of Universal Christendom: The Medieval Roots of the Renaissance and Reformation.

Readings: St. Thomas on Politics and Ethics, The Summa of Theology, I Part II, The First Part of Part II, the Treatise on Law and III Part III

Review Class: Tues. Dec. 8 – Enduring themes of Classical and Christian Political Thought.

Essays and Exams will be evaluated by the content of their critical and analytical thought as well as the basic requirement that students demonstrate a clear and competent understanding of lecture material and the assigned course readings. Writing style, including spelling, grammar and the thoughtful presentation of a coherent structure and argument, will also be taken into consideration.

Late Submission of Work: Papers/assignments must be submitted in class to the Instructor on the day they are due. **The Political Science drop-box is intended to collect late assignments only**, or if a student has extenuating circumstances which have been approved by the instructor, at least a week before the due date. There will be a mandatory late penalty for any papers/assignments collected from the drop box without prior approval, **even on the date the assignment is due**. This policy has been implemented to ensure students attend class on assignment due dates. The drop box is emptied every weekday at 4 p.m. and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with the day's date. **Late penalties are one-third letter grade per day late**, i.e. a paper grade B+ is downgraded to B the first late day, followed by B- the next etc. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted without a prior extension being granted by the instructor. Valid medical excuses only accepted for term work extensions.

Note: Attendance is required at all lectures and tutorials. Valid excuses accepted, otherwise absenteeism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to bring the book we are reading to class lectures.

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 request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2009, for December examinations, and March 6, 2010 for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observance 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 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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: “to use and pass off as one’s own ideas 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 acknowledgement; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgement; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgement, 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, and failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks. Plagiarism is a serious offence and will result in a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. 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. Penalties can be severe, including a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade “F” for the course. 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 in the class on the date the assignment is due 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.

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 mid-term and final exams 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 and mid-term 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 or visit the website at poliscisociety.com, or come to the office in Loeb D688.