

PSCI 2300 B
History of Political Thought
Lectures: Friday 8:35-10:25 a.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Lee MacLean
Office: Loeb D686
Office Hours: Tues.: 3 - 4 p.m.
 Thurs.: 3 - 4 p.m.
 Friday: 11 a.m - 12 p.m.
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This course offers students an introduction to the most important thinkers and questions in Western political thought. The Fall term provides an introduction to classic texts of Ancient Greek political philosophy. The themes we will study in the Fall term include: justice, nature and convention, education, citizenship, gender, the family, economics, the best regime, the goals of political life, and the relation between political life and the contemplative life.

During the Winter term, we examine classic texts of Modern Political Thought. The themes we will study during the Winter term include: individual freedom and self-interest and their relation to conceptions of virtue and the common good; the development of state of nature and social contract theories; human rights; relativism and standards for judgment of ethical questions; nature and human nature; justice; religion; equality; liberty; vain glory; violence; liberalism; sovereignty and democracy. We will consider the overall character of modern political thought as a response to ancient political thought and to modern circumstances, such as the rise of modern natural science and technology.

Objectives and Goals of the Course:

-This course is designed to give students an understanding of the role of key thinkers in the development of political philosophy.

-Another key objective is to understand the teachings of these philosophers on their own terms and to compare and contrast the thinkers' approaches to major issues.

-This course provides a starting point for reflection about the impact of political philosophy on the opportunities and challenges of contemporary political life. It also aims to give the student the ability to describe in his or her own words how the ideas of the philosophers can foster reflection about present day political and ethical dilemmas.

-The course is designed to help the student understand and practice the art of interpretation.

- Another key goal is to teach students the importance of careful reading.
- A further objective is to help students become clearer writers.
- The course also provides an opportunity for students to refine their skills of argumentation and to practice critical thinking.

We will proceed by close textual and contextual study of classical philosophical texts. Our approach will be **theoretical**.

Prerequisite: second year standing

N.B. Class attendance and discussion group attendance are necessary for success in this course. Please read the assigned texts before class and bring the texts with you to class.

Class Etiquette: Each person who speaks in class should be given the floor; talking or whispering to other students while someone else is speaking is destructive of the quality of class deliberation.

Books Required for Purchase: (Available for purchase from Haven Books, 43 Seneca St., Ottawa)

Note: Please be sure to buy the recommended translations.

Plato and Aristophanes, Four Texts on Socrates. Trans. Thomas West and Grace Starry West. Cornell, 1984.

Plato, The Republic of Plato. Trans. Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1991.

Aristotle. The Politics of Aristotle. Trans. Peter L. Phillips Simpson. University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics. Trans. Joe Sachs. Focus Publishing, 2002.

Niccolò Machiavelli. The Prince. Trans. Harvey C. Mansfield. University of Chicago, 1985.

Thomas Hobbes. Leviathan Ed. C.B. Macpherson. Penguin, 1981

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The First and Second Discourses. Trans. Judith Masters . Ed. Roger Masters. St. Martins Press, 1964.

Karl Marx. The Communist Manifesto. Ed. David McLellan. Oxford, 1992.

Course Requirements:

Participation	10%
Fall True/False Quiz on Fri. Oct. 16	10 %
Fall Paper, 5-7 double-spaced pages, due Fri. Dec. 4	20%
Winter Paper, 5-7 double-spaced pages, due Fri. Feb. 26	20%
Winter True/False Quiz on Fri. March 12	10%
Final exam (Apr. 8-24, 2010 including Saturdays)	30%

Fall and Winter Quizzes: The quizzes will consist of true or false questions based on statements that are contained in the texts. For the Fall quiz, you will be responsible for the material in the Apology and in Republic Books 1, 2 and 3. The Fall quiz will take place at **10 a.m. sharp** on **Fri. Oct. 16**. The Fall quizzes will be graded and returned one week later, on Fri. Oct. 23rd.

The Winter quiz will consist of true or false questions based on statements that are contained in the assigned texts from Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau. The Winter quiz will take place at **10 a.m. sharp** on **Fri. March 12**.

In very exceptional circumstances, a make-up quiz may be administered by the Teaching Assistants but only if students have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen.

Fall and Winter Essays: The required length for both essays is 5-7 double-spaced pages (with no more than 300 words per page). Essays should be submitted directly to your Teaching Assistant at the beginning of your discussion group on the due date. Please follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Your essay will be marked on the basis of criteria which include: clarity, organization, coherent justification, focus, provision of ample evidence and documentation, reflection on course readings and overall grasp of the topic under discussion. A one-page description of these criteria will be distributed when the paper topics are handed out. The same grading criteria (with some adjustments due to the difference of format) will be used for the exam. **The Fall essay is due Fri. Dec. 4. The Winter essay is due Fri. Feb. 26. Both essays must be submitted in order to pass the course.** Our goal will be to return all essays that are passed in on time to students within three weeks of the date the essay is due.

Policy regarding late papers: A penalty of one half point per day will be imposed on all late papers not excused by a doctor's certificate. (i.e. A paper that is one day late and assigned an original grade of 14/20 will become 13.5 / 20). Unless you have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen, you can expect the penalty to be fairly and consistently applied.

Final Exam:

You will be given five essay questions on the last day of classes. Two of these will appear on the exam and you must write on both.

Note: The deferred exam will have a different format. Within the deferred exam, there will be two sections; each will contain a choice between two essay questions.

Please also note the following:

- Late essays not submitted directly to your Teaching Assistant must be placed in the drop-box in the Political Science Office, Loeb B640. They will be date-stamped. The drop-box is emptied every weekday at 4 p.m. and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date. Essays placed in the drop-box after working hours are date-stamped the following day.
- Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Political Science will not be accepted.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- The Undergraduate Calendar states "**To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations.**" (Academic Regulation [AR] 2.1) The grade of 'F' will be assigned where term work is incomplete.

Fall Schedule of Reading:

Fri. Sept. 11	Introduction
Fri. Sept. 18	Plato, <u>The Apology of Socrates</u>
Fri. Sept. 25	<u>The Apology of Socrates</u> , continued and Plato, <u>The Republic</u> , Book 1
Fri. Oct. 2	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 1, continued and Book 2.
Fri. Oct. 9	University Day; All Carleton classes cancelled.
Fri. Oct. 16	<i>Fall True / False Quiz</i> ; <u>The Republic</u> , Book 2, continued and Book 3.
Fri. Oct. 23	<u>The Republic</u> , Books 4 and 5
Fri. Oct. 30	<u>The Republic</u> , Books 5 and 6
Fri. Nov.6	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 7

- Fri. Nov. 13 Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1
(On Reserve).
- Fri. Nov. 20 Aristotle, The Politics, Book 1
- Fri. Nov. 27 Aristotle, The Politics, Books 1, cont'd,
Book 2, chapters 1- 8 and Book 3,
Chapters 1-9.
- Fri. Dec.4 *Fall papers due.*
Aristotle, The Politics, Book 3, 10-18
- Winter Schedule of Reading:
- Week of:
- Fri. Jan. 8 Machiavelli, The Prince, Dedicatory Letter, Chapters 1-7
No late Fall essays will be accepted after this date.
- Fri. Jan. 15 The Prince, Chapters 8-18
- Fri. Jan. 22 The Prince, Chapters 18-26
- Fri. Jan. 29 Hobbes, Leviathan, Letter to Goldolphin (pp. 75-76);
Hobbes' Introduction, pp. 81-83; Chapters 13-16
- Fri. Feb. 5 Leviathan, Chapters 17-21
- Fri. Feb. 12 Leviathan, Recommended: Chapters 1- 2,
Required: Chapters 6 and 10-12.
- Feb. 15-19 Reading Week
- Fri. Feb. 26 *Winter papers Due*
Rousseau, Second Discourse,
Letter Dedicatory; Preface and Part 1
- Fri. March 5 Second Discourse, Part 1, continued.
- Fri. March 12 Second Discourse, Part 2.
Winter True / False Quiz on Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau

Fri. March 19	Marx and Engels, <u>Communist Manifesto</u> , Part 1
Fri. March 26	<u>Communist Manifesto</u> , Parts 2-4.
Fri. April 2	Good Friday. University holiday. No classes.
Tues. April 5	Last day of class. (Classes follow a Friday schedule). Conclusion. Exam study questions handed out. Two of these questions, selected at random, will appear on the exam and you must write on both. No late Winter essays will be accepted after this date.

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 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 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.

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: 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: 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.