

PSCI 3308 A
Modern Political Thought
18:05 p.m. – 20:55 p.m. Mondays
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Bruce Mabley
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Office Hours: Mondays 17H00 – 18H00
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Course description

- *Content* – This course will be a survey of modern political thinkers from Machievelli to Camus. Throughout the course, the views of these thinkers about the nature and role of the state will be elucidated and analyzed.
- *Aims and Objectives*- The main objective of this course is to provide an overview of the development of modern political thought and views on state power and legitimacy. Students will familiarize themselves with the origins of modern political philosophy and its distinguishing characteristics. There will also be one section devoted to a non-Western political theory.

Texts

Required – on order with the University Bookstore

A History of Modern Political Thought: Major Political Thinkers from Hobbes to Marx, Iain Hampsher-Monk, Wiley-Blackwell, 1993 ISBN 1-978-1-55786-147-4 978-0-14-118513-2

• **Evaluation**

- Short answer quiz in class worth 10 points administered the first week of October and returned the next class.(Oct 5th)
- Class presentation (15 minutes) on topics related to the readings. Worth 30 points.
- Essay topics to be announced Monday October 19 due last class in December. Twelve to fifteen pages. Worth 60 points. (Due Dec 7th)

Criteria influencing grading: After more than five spelling and or grammar errors, one point will be deducted per error, University of Chicago footnoting format in force, plus the exegesis format

based on a) the point of the passage, b) the relationship of the passage to the overall argument of the author and c) an analysis of the main issues elucidated in the passage with commentary.

Lateness Policy – Term papers are due on the last day of class (December 7th). Papers received after that day will be docked 10 per cent per day of lateness.

Attendance Policy – Prior experience indicates that those students who attend classes regularly perform better than those who miss classes.

Schedule

Week 1 – September 14 – Introduction to Pre-modern Political Thought

A discussion about the pre-modern setting including the new science together with the ambition of designing a political theory in a universe without God.

Reading: *The Prince*, N.Machiavelli, Penguin Classics, 2003 and *Science and Change 1500-1700*, Hugh Kearney, McGraw Hill, 1971.

Week 2 – September 21 – Hobbes' Leviathan

Absolute sovereignty or the war of all against all. The social contract is a *sine qua non* for political legitimacy and order.

Reading: *Leviathan*, T.Hobbes, Penguin, 1982. pp. 1-408.

Class text: pp.1-68

Week 3 – September 28 – Locke and the Protection of Private Property

Separation of powers. The role of the state and private property.

Reading: *Second Treatise on Government*, John Locke, Library of Liberal Arts, 1952.

Class text: pp.69-116

Week 4 – October 5 – Jean Jacques Rousseau and the General Will

The General Will is the bulwark of the state and its *raison d'être*. It is indivisible and legitimates state power. Factionalism sounds the death knell of the General Will.

Reading: *The Social Contract*, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Penguin, 1968.

Class text :153-196

Week 5 – October 19 – The Tyranny of the Majority

Analysis and discussion of 'On Liberty' by John Stuart Mill.

Reading: *On Liberty*, John S. Mill, Library of Liberal Arts, 1956.

Class text: pp.339-408

Week 6 – October 26 – Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*

'The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the falling of dusk.'

The state as the actualization of the Idea of Freedom.

Reading: *The Philosophy of Right*, G.W.F.Hegel, tran. T.M.Knox, Oxford University Press, 1967.

Class text: pp.409-482

Week 7 – November 2 – Marx and the Critique of the ‘Philosophy of Right’

Marx stands Hegel’s dialectic on its head, the first step towards dialectical materialism. The state as the reflection of class struggle. Its destiny is known.

Reading: *The Critique of the Philosophy of Right*, ed. Joseph O’Malley, Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Class text: pp. 483-562

Week 8 – November 9 – Anarchism

The state will not wither away as Engels had predicted. Anarcho-syndicalism and the absence of state power.

Reading: *Michael Bakunin: Selected Writings*, ed., Arthur Lehning, Grove Press, 1973, pp.232-270.

Week 9 – November 16 – Nietzsche

The end of political philosophy? The problem of authority and legitimacy.

Reading: *Twilight of the Idols and Antichrist*, F.Nietzsche, Dover Publications, 2004, pp.77-end.

Week 10 – November 23 – ‘The Plague’

Absurdist political consequences. A new theory of self-justifying rebellion and human solidarity. An analysis of metaphysical and historical rebellion. A rejoinder to Marxism.

Reading: *The Plague*, Albert Camus, Penguin, 1948.

Week 11 – November 30 – Political Islam

A non-Western political philosophy that challenges Western political and social values.

Reading: Handout

Week 12 – December 7 – Conclusion

Final comments. Term papers to be handed in at this time. Those students wishing to receive their term paper through the mail can leave a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the term paper on December 7th.

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.