

PSCI 4305A
Contemporary Political Theory
Thursday 2:35p.m.- 5:25p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Fall:

Instructor: Julia Brotea
Office: D683 Loeb Building
Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext. 2789 (no voicemail)
Office Hours: Thurs 1:00-2:30pm or by appointment
Email: jbrotea@connect.Carleton.ca

Winter:

Instructor: Dr. Tom Darby
Office C675 Loeb Building
Telephone: 520-2600 ext. 2778
Office Hours: TBA
Email: tdarby@ccs.carleton.ca

Course Rationale and Objective:

This course will explore the interplay between politics and technology in our time. It will focus on prevalent thinkers who articulate this interplay in modern thought and it will relate them to Ancient Greek and Christian thought.

Course Requirements:

Students must complete each of the following components of the course in order to achieve a passing grade. There will be no final examination. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to read all assigned material, to participate in discussion and to prepare and make oral presentations in class.

List of texts: Fall Term

All text are required and can be purchase at the Carleton University Book Store.

- Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, Trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1998).
- Benecke, Mark. *The Dream of Eternal Life: biomedicine, aging and immortality*, Trans. Rachel Rubenstein (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002).
- Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. I (New York: Vintage Books, 1978).
- Martin Heidegger, *Basic Writings*, Trans. David Farrell Krell (San Francisco: Harper SanFrancisco, 1993).
- McLuhan, Marshal, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1964).
- Singer, P. W. *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the Twenty-first Century* (New York: Penguin Press, 2009).

List of texts on Reserve: Fall Term

Aristotle *The Politics, The Metaphysics*

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Part VI: 44. "Dasein, disclosedness and truth,"

Trans., David Farrell Krell (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1962)

Fedorov, N. F. (Nikolai Fedorovich). *What was man created for?; the philosophy of the common task* (London, Honeyglen., 1990).

Course Evaluation:

First Term Presentation (s): 15%

Short First Term Essay: 10% Due October 29th in class

Second Term Essay: 25% Due in class: Dec 7, 2009

Second Term Presentation (s): 20%

Final Essay: 30% Due in class: Apr 5, 2010

Submission and Return of the Term Work:

Essays must be handed directly to the instructor, in class, and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your final assignment returned by mail. Papers submitted without a stamped, self-addressed envelope may be picked up at the Instructor's office on a date to be announced in class. Do not put essays in the mailbox or under the Instructor's door.

Late Paper Policy:

You may have an extension automatically. However, marks will be deducted for late submissions at the rate of one-half letter grade per day, with weekends counting as two days. Late papers are to be delivered directly to the Instructor and not to the Political Science office. If you have serious extenuating circumstances, which would warrant an extension without penalty (such as illness, death, plague and pestilence, foreign invasion or civil war), medical documentation detailing the extent of your incapacitation is required. The medical note need not record your diagnosis, but it must tell me what you are consequently unable to do, e.g. cannot write, see, etc. Retroactive extensions will not be granted.

You must keep a copy of your paper. As the instructor may require students to pass a brief oral examination on the research essays (see the sections on 'Plagiarism' below), you should keep all notes, outlines, working drafts and other research material at least until you have received your final grade in the course.

Fall Semester

September 10th Introduction

September 17th/ 24th Theme: Technology and its relation to truth I

Plato, *The Republic*, Book VI, Trans. Bloom

Aristotle, *Metaphysics*

Martin Heidegger, *Basic Writings*, “On the Essence of Truth,” Trans. David Farrell Krell (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1993).

Recommended:

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Part VI: 44. “Dasein, disclosedness and truth,” Trans., David Farrell Krell (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1962)

October 1st/8th Theme: Technology and its relation to truth II

Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book I, Trans. Carnes Lord, (Chicago: University of Chicago).

Friedrich Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, “Introduction” Available on-line

Martin Heidegger, *Basic Writings*, “The Question Concerning Technology,” Trans. David Farrell Krell (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1993).

Recommended:

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Part III: “The Worldhood of the World” Trans., David Farrell Krell (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1962).

October 15th/22nd Theme: Technology and Biology

Plato, *The Republic*, Book V, Trans. Bloom.

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. I (New York: Vintage Books, 1978).

Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, Trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1998). Selections TBA

Recommended:

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Part IV, “Being-in-the-World as Being-with and Being-one’s-self. The ‘They’” Trans., David Farrell Krell (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1962).

October 29th / November 5th Theme: Technology and immortality

The New English Bible; The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Mark Benecke, *The Dream of Eternal Life: biomedicine, aging and immortality*, Trans. Rachel Rubenstein (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002).

Recommended:

Fedorov, N. F. (Nikolai Fedorovich). *What was man created for?; the philosophy of the common task* (London, Honeyglen., 1990).

November 12th / November 19th / November 26th Theme: Technology and media

Heidegger, Martin, “The Age of the World Picture” in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, tr. Lovitt, William (New York: Harper, 1977)
Marshal McLuhan, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1964)

Recommended:

Jerzy Kosiński, *Being There*, (New York : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970)

December 3rd - Theme: Technology and war

The New English Bible; Book of Samuel I & II.
P. W. Singer, *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the Twenty-first Century* (New York, Penguin Press, 2009).

Winter Semester

January 7th /14th /21st/ January 28th - Theme: Technology, Modernity and the End of History

Aristotle, selections, *Metaphysics*: BkI 983 a-b, Bk V1013 a-b ; *Physics*: BkII, Chs 3-7;
Genetics (= “Fragment on the Generation of Animals”)

Hobbes, Thomas, *Leviathan*: “Introduction”

Darby, Tom, “On Spiritual Crisis, Globalization and Planetary Rule”, in Lawler, Peter and McConkey, Dale, Faith, *Reason and Political Life Today* (Toronto: Lexington Books, 2001)

Darby, Tom, *The Feast: Meditations on Politics and Time*, 2nd ed. .Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1990): Preface to the 2nd edition, Ch. III, Ch. V. also available in Course Pack

Kojeve, Alexandre, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*, tr. Nicholes, James H., ed.

Allen Bloom (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1968); Ch. 4, Ch. 5, Ch. 8
----- " The Idea of Death in the Philosophy of Hegel"

Hegel, G.W.F., *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, tr. Miller, A.V.(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977) selections TBA

Recommended:

Crace, Jim, *Being Dead*, a novel

February 4th/February 11th/ February 18th - Theme: Technology, Historicism and Nihilism

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *The Use and Abuse of History*, tr. Collins, Adrian (New York: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 2000)

----- *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, tr. Kaufmann, Walter (New York: Random House, 1969)

----- *The Gay Science*, tr. Kaufmann, Walter (New York: Random House, 1969)
selections TBA

Heidegger, Martin, "On Nietzsche's 'Word' 'God is Dead' " in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, tr. Lovitt, William (New York: Harper, 1977)

Dreyfus, Hubert, "Heidegger on the Connection between Art, Technology and Politics" in *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger*, Guignon, Charles ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Darby, Tom; Jones, Ben; Eged, Bela, eds. *Nietzsche and the Rhetoric of Nihilism: Essays on Philosophy, Literature and Politics* (Ottawa: Carleton University Press/ Montreal: McGill/Queens University Press, 1989) selections TBA

Recommended:

Houellebecq, Michel, *The Elementary Particles*, a novel

February 25th /March 4th / March 11th - Theme: Technology its Origin, Limits and Possibilities

Ellul, Jacques, *The Technological Society*, tr. Wilkinson, John (New York: Random House, 1964) selections TBA

Germain, Gil, *Spirits in the Material World: The Challenge of Technology* (Toronto: Lexington Books, 2010)

Melzer, Arthur; Weinburger, Jerry; Zinman, Richard eds , *Technology in the Western Political Tradition* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993) selections TBA , also available in Course Pack

Kurtzweil, Ray, *The Age of Spiritual Machines* (New York: Penguin Group, 1993) selection TBA

Fukuyama, Francis, *Our Post-Modern Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002)

Recommended:

Houellebecq, Michel, *On the Possibility of an Island*, a novel

March 18th - Theme: Technology and Empire in our Globalized Age of Clashing Cultures and Civilizations

Huntington, Samuel P. *The Clash of Civilizations and the remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996).

Strauss, Leo. *On Tyranny* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Recommended:

Adaga, Aravinda , *White Tiger*, a novel

March 25th - Theme: Technology and Terror

Mazarr, Michael, *Unmodern Men in the Modern World: Radical Islam, Terrorism and the War on Modernity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Mitchell, Andrew “Heidegger and Terror”, 2008, full text on Journal Website, TBA

Recommended:

“Mishima”, the film (We likely will watch this in a class but if we don’t have enough class-time we will watch it in a special screening.)

April 1st - Theme: Technology, Modernity and the End of History Reconsidered

Darby, Tom, *Disorderly Notions*, a novel

Kosiński, Jerzy, *Being There*, a novel

Plato, *The Republic*, Trans. Allan Bloom

List of Texts: Winter Term

Darby, Tom, *The Feast: Meditations on Politics and Time*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1990): Preface to the 2nd edition, Ch. III, Ch. V, Course Pack

----- Jones, Ben; Eged, Bela, eds. *Nietzsche and the Rhetoric of Nihilism: Essays on Philosophy, Literature and Politics* (Ottawa: Carleton University Press/Montreal: McGill/Queens University Press, 1989)

Heidegger, Martin *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, tr. Lovitt, William (New York: Harper, 1977)

Huntington, Samuel P. *The Clash of Civilizations and the remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996)

Ellul, Jacques, *The Technological Society*: tr. Wilkinson, John (New York: Random House, 1964)

Kurtzweil, Ray, *The Age of Spiritual Machines* (New York: Penguin Group, 1993)

Kojeve, Alexandre, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*, tr. Nicholes, James H., ed. Allen Bloom (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1968).

Mazarr, Michael, *Unmodern Men in the Modern World: Radical Islam, Terrorism and the War on Modernity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *The Use and Abuse of History*, tr. Collins, Adrian (New York: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 2000)

----- *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, tr. Kaufmann, Walter (New York: Random House, 1969)

----- *The Gay Science*, tr. Kaufmann, Walter (New York: Random House, 1969)

Strauss, Leo. *On Tyranny* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000).

List of texts on Reserve: Winter Term

Aristotle, *Metaphysics*

-----*Physics*

Adaga, Aravinda , *White Tiger*, a novel

Hegel, G.W.F., *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, tr. Miller, A.V. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977)

Houellebecq, Michel, *On the Possibility of an Island*, a novel

----- *The Elementary Particles*, a novel

Hobbes, Thomas, *The Leviathan*

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.