

PSCI 4305A
Contemporary Political Theory
Monday 14:35 – 17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Tom Darby
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Wed 12:30-1:30
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Course Rationale and Objective:

We will question the meaning of the most prevailing yet complex phenomena of our time. Here we will focus on a cluster of closely related themes: The End of History, Technology, Nihilism and planetary or “Great Politics”.

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.

Evaluation

First Term Essay due Jan 5th	20%
Final Essay due April 6th	50%
Class Presentations dates to be determined	30%

Submission and Return of 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 my office** on a date to be announced later in class. **Do not** put essays in my mailbox or under my 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 me** 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 section on ‘Plagiarism’ below), you should keep all notes, outlines, working drafts and other research material at least until you have received your final grade for the course.

FALL SEMESTER — 19TH CENTURY BACKGROUND AND 20TH CENTURY RECEPTION

Theme: The End of History and the Advent of ‘Re-animalized’ and ‘Japanized’ Man

1. Darby, T., *The Feast: Meditations on Politics and Time*, Chs. 3,5, 6

2. Kojève, A., *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*, Chs. 5, 7
3. Kojève, A., "The Idea of Death in the Philosophy of Hegel" (photocopy)
4. Gillis, H., "On Kojève's Atheism" (photocopy)
5. Hegel, G.W.F., *The Phenomenology of Mind* (selections)
6. Nietzsche, F., "On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life"
7. Nietzsche, F., *The Genealogy of Morals*
8. Nietzsche, F., *The Gay Science* (selections)
9. Crace, Jim, *Being Dead*, (a novel about ... well, death)

Recommended Reading

10. Strauss, L., "What is Political Philosophy?" (photocopy)
11. +Strauss, L., "The Three Waves of Modernity", (photocopy)
12. Foucault, M., "Nietzsche, Genealogy and History" (photocopy)
13. Cooper, B., *The End of History: An Essay in Modern Hegelianism*
14. Lilla, M., "The End of Philosophy: How a Russian Emigré Bought Hegel to the French" (photocopy)
15. Darby, Egid, Jones, eds, *Nietzsche and the Rhetoric of Nihilism* (selections)
16. Bataille, G., *The Sunday of Life*, (a novel about boredom and the end of history in post WWII France)
17. Rockmore, T., "Heidegger's French Connection and the Emperor's New Clothes" (photocopy)
18. Lawler, P., *Postmodernism Rightly Understood*
19. Darby, T., *The Feast: Meditations on Politics and Time* (ch 4)
20. Descombes, V., *Modern French Philosophy*
21. + Bloom, A., "The Political Philosopher in Democratic Society: a Socratic View", In *Giants and Dwarfs*, Bloom, A., ed.

WINTER SEMESTER — 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY

Theme: Technology and the Transformation of Nature

22. Darby, T, "On Spiritual Crisis, Technology and Globalization" in Lawler P. And McConkey, D., eds, *Faith, Reason and Political Life Today*
23. +Nietzsche, F., *Beyond Good and Evil*
24. Strauss, L., *On Tyranny* (selections)
25. Arendt, H., *The Human Condition*
26. Ellul, J., *The Technological Society* (selections)
27. Heidegger, M., *Questions Concerning Technology and Other Essays* (selections)
28. Rosen, S. "Techne and the Origins of Modernity", McWilliams, W., "Science and Freedom: America as the Technological Republic", OR Cantor, P., "Romanticism and Technology: Satanic Verses and Satanic Mills", Weinberger, J., "Technology and the Problem of Liberal Democracy", OR Melzer, A. M., "The Problem with the 'Problem of Technology'" in Melzer, A.; Weinberger, J.; Zinmano, M. (ed), *Technology in the Western Political Tradition*
29. Voegelin, E., "On Hegel: A Study in Sorcery" (photocopy)

Recommended Reading

30. Cooper, B., *Action Into Nature: An Essay on the Meaning of Technology*
31. Darby, T., ed, *Sojourns in the New World*
32. Grant, G., *Technology and Justice*
33. Gauchet, M., *The Disenchantment of the World: A Political History of Religion*
34. Germain, G., *A Discourse on Disenchantment*
35. Kuhn, T., *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
36. Weiner, N., *The Human Use of Human Beings*
37. Kojève, A., "L'Origine Chrétienne de la Science Moderne"
38. Koyré, A., *From Closed World to Infinite Universe*
39. Poerksen, U., *Plastic Words: Tyranny of a Modular Language*

40. Innis, H., *Empire and Communication*
 41. +Levin, J., *Madman Dreams of Turing Machine*, (a novel about the inventor of the computer)

Theme: Technology, Politics and Nihilism

42. Dreyfus, H., "Knowledge and Human Values" and "Nihilism, Art, Technology and Politics" (photocopy)
 43. Heidegger, M., *Nietzsche*, Vol.1, Section 5 (photocopy)
 44. Jonas, H., *The Gnostic Religion* (afterword, photocopy)
 45. Kurzweil, R., *The Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence* (selections)
 46. Lyotard, Jean-Francois, *The Inhuman: Reflections on Time* OR
 47. Haraway, Donna J, *Simians, Cyborgs and Women* OR
 48. Ward, M., *Virtual Organism: The Startling World of Artificial Life*
 49. +Houellebecq, M., *The Elementary Particles*, (a novel about nihilism and technology in contemporary France)

Recommended Reading/Viewing

50. Rosen, S., *Nihilism*
 51. O'Connor, F., *Wise Blood*, (a famous novel about nihilism and the death of God in the American South)
 52. Nietzsche, F., *Thoughts Out of Season* (selections)
 53. Heidegger, M., *Letter on Humanism*
 54. Paz, O., *Alternating Current*
 55. Bellow, S., *More Die of Heartbreak*, (a novel about life at the end of history. Kojève is minor character)
 56. Céline, S.-F., *Journey to the End of the Night*, (a novel about nihilism in post-WWII France)
 57. *American Beauty*, (a film about re-animalized man)
 58. *Fight Club*, (a film about Japanized man)
 59. Bataille, G., *The Accursed Share, Vol. I: Consumption* (Introduction) (photocopy)
 60. Sorokin, M., *Variations on a Theme Park*
 62. Eco, U., *Travels in Hyper Reality*
 64. Heidegger, M., "Only God Can Save Us" (interview)
 65. Steiner, G., "The Hollow Miracle" (photocopy)
 66. Tamas, G., "On Post-Fascism" (photocopy)
 67. Palahniuk, C., *Choke*, (a novel by the author of 'Fight Club')
 68. +McCarthy, C., *No Country for Old Men*, (a novel about nihilism on the American / Mexican border)
 69. +Banks, R., *Continental Drift*, (a novel about nihilism, crime and desperation in globalized Florida)

Theme: Civilization vs. Culture and the Struggle for the Planet

70. Heidegger, M., *An Introduction to Metaphysics*
 71. Huntington, S.P., *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*
 73. Sorel, *On Violence*
 74. Schmitt, C., *The Concept of the Political* including the *Introductory Essay* by T. Strong
 75. Schmitt, C., *Land and Sea*
 76. Ferguson, N., "A New War of the World", in *Foreign Affairs*, Sept/ Oct, 2006 (photocopy)
 77. +Lewis, B., *The Crisis of Islam* OR
 78. +Pipes, D., *Militant Islam Reaches America*
 79. +Cooper, B., *New Political Religions, or an Analysis of Modern Terrorism*
 80. +Veith, G.E., *Modern Fascism: Liquidating the Judeo-Christian Worldview* OR
 81. +Harris, L., *Civilization and Its Enemies*

Recommended Reading/Viewing

82. Barber, B., *Beyond Jihad vs McWorld*
 83. Fukuyama, F., *The End of History and the Last Man*
 84. Canetti, E., *Crowds and Power*
 85. *Mishima*, (a film about [a]Japanized man)
 86. Bataille, G., "The Psychological Structure of Fascism" in *Visions of Excess* (photocopy)

- 87 Herf, J., *Reactionary Modernism: Technology, Culture and Politics in Weimer and The Third Reich*
88. Steiner, G., *In Bluebeard's Castle*
89. Piccone, P., "Confronting the French New Right" in *Telos*, Fall, 1995
90. de Benoit, A., "The Idea of Empire" , in *Telos*, Fall, 1995
91. Gottfried, P., "Alain de Benoit's Anti-Americanism" , in *Telos*, Fall 1995
- 92.+ Henri-Levy, B., *War, Evil and the End of History*
- 93.+ Boot, M., *War Made New: Technology, Warfare and the Course of History: 1500 to the Present*
94. Hanson, V., *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power*
95. Meyer, H., *Carl Schmidt and Leo Strauss*
96. Virilio, P., Lorringer, S., *Pure War*
97. Cantor, Paul, "Shakespeare in the Original Klingon: Star Trek and the End of History" in Lawler and McConkey (eds), *Faith, Reason and Political Life Today*
98. Kojève, A., "Empire Sketch", (photocopy)
99. Kojève, A., "Marx is God and Ford is His Prophet" (photocopy)
100. Kojève, A., "Kojève-Schmitt Correspondence" (photocopy)
101. Pagden, Anthony, *Empire: Peoples and Empires: A Short History of European Migration, Exploration and Conquest, From Greece to the Present*
102. +Maier, C., *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors*
103. Coker, C., *Twilight of the West*
104. Ceaser, J.C., *Reconstructing America: The Symbol of America in Modern Thought*

Theme: Retrospective

105. Rosen, S., *Hermeneutics as Politics OR*
106. +Verene, D., *Philosophy an the Return of Self-knowledge OR*
107. Lilla, Mark, *The Reckless Mind: Intellectuals in Politics OR*
108. +Hutter, H., *Shaping the Future: Nietzsche's New Regime of the Soul and Its Ascetic Practices*
109. Kundera, M., *Immortality*, (a novel about life at the end of history in contemporary Europe)

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 letter of 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 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).

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, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.