

PSCI 4308 A
History of Political Enquiry
8:35 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Wednesday
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Graham Howell
Office: Loeb 611A
Office Hours: Wednesday's 11:30-12:30 or by appointment
Phone: 613-520-2600 x2773 (no voice mail)
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Course description

The course is a philosophic study of the history of political enquiry and it will examine nature, a part of which is human nature, as an object of study in the western tradition. One of the central points of debate surrounding the role of nature in political enquiry is whether knowledge of nature is relevant to knowledge of politics. If there is knowledge of nature that is relevant to understanding politics, political enquiry can discover standards by which one can make important distinctions in the political realm, such as between good and bad regimes or between just and unjust wars. If knowledge of nature is irrelevant to the study of politics, then politics becomes the study of power and it becomes more difficult to consistently and coherently distinguish the just from the unjust or between tyrannical rule and virtuous rule.

This course will focus primarily on the debate as it occurs between Francis Bacon and Aristotle, but will also include sections from Thomas Hobbes, By focusing on the contrast between Aristotle, the founder of ancient and medieval science, and early the English enlightenment thinkers who were so important for dethroning Aristotelian science and establishing modern science, the course aims to deepen the students understanding of political enquiry.

The course will end by investigating the debate as it occurred in the 20th century in selected essays by Max Weber and Leo Strauss on the Fact/Value distinction.

Texts

The following texts are **required** and are available at the Carleton University Bookstore:

- Aristotle's *Physics: A Guided Study*. Translated by Joe Sachs. Publisher: Rutgers University Press ISBN: 9780813521923
- Francis Bacon's *New Organon* – edited by Anderson, Fulton H. Publisher Prentice Hall ISBN: 9780023033803

- Other materials will be on reserve.

Recommended

- Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics: translated by Joe Sachs. Focus Publishing/R. Pullins ISBN: 9781585100354

- **Term Work**

Short Exegetical Essay 1: The essay length is 5-7 double spaced pages.

- Assigned September 24th and due in class 3 weeks later on October 15th, 2008 (20%)

(As per early feedback guidelines, this assignment will be returned by October 31st.)

Short Exegetical Essay 2: The essay length is 5-7 double spaced pages.

- Assigned October 22nd, 2008 and due 3 weeks later on November 12th, 2008 (20%)

Term paper: The essay length is 15-17 pages. Double spaced pages.

- Final paper due on the last day of the winter term, December 1st (40%).

Participation and weekly presentations which will rotate weekly on an equal basis (20%)

Note: Please submit term work either in-class or during your office hours. The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only or if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the paper directly to you in class or during your office hours.

Lateness policy and Attendance policy

- Attendance is obligatory, not optional. Every student is expected to attend every class unless the student has a recognized documented medical or personal excuse for being absent.
- Late papers will be penalized by half a grade a day after the final due date for submission.

- **Readings Schedule (subject to change).**

Week 1 September 10th Introduction

Week 2 September 17th Aristotle's *Physics*

- Readings: Book 1 (Beginnings) and Book 2.1-3 (Causes).

Week 3 September 24th Aristotle's *Physics*

- Readings: Book 2 (and Chance 4-9) and Book 3 (Motions 1-3),
- Short Exegetical Essay #1 assigned.

Week 4 October 1st Aristotle's *Physics*

- Readings: Book 4.10-14 (Time) and Book 5 (motions as wholes).

Week 5 October 8th Aristotle's *Ethics*

- Readings: Book 1

Week 6 October 15th Bacon's *Great Instauration*

- Readings: *The Great Instauration*
- Short Exegetical essay #1 Due.

Week 7 October 22nd Bacon's *New Organon*

- Readings: Introduction and aphorisms aphorisms 1-38
- Short Exegetical Essay #2 Assigned

Week 8 October 29th Bacon's *New Organon*

- Readings: Doctrine of the Idols aphorisms 39-68

Week 9 November 5th Bacon's *New Organon*

- Readings: False Demonstrations aphorisms 69-114 and Ends of the Project aphorisms 115-130.

Week 10 November 12th Selections from Thomas Hobbes

- Readings: Preface to *De Corpore* and *De Cive* (*on reserve*)
- Short Exegetical Essay #2 Due.

Week 11 November 19th Fact/Value Distinction

- Readings: Weber's *Science as Vocation* and Strauss' 'The Fact/Value Distinction' from *Natural Right and History* (*on reserve*).

Week 12 November 26th Conclusion

December 1st

- Final paper due in my Office between 10am and noon

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 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.