

PSCI 4309A
Contemporary Approaches to Political Enquiry
Tuesday 8:35-11:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
Office: Loeb B644
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:35-1:25, or by appointment
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Course Description:

Political debate often entails appeals to firmly held moral positions. Understanding how these moral positions are reconciled within political discourse constitutes an important element of political enquiry. Therefore, contemporary political theorists are required, among other things, to address the nature of values. This course will focus on value pluralism and, in particular, on the notion of the incommensurability of values. We will try to come to terms with the normative and political implications of a view that holds that there exists a plurality of values which people can and do seek and that some of these values are incommensurable. By the end of the term, students should have an appreciation of many of the complexities in the pluralism literature as well as a developed understanding of how competing moral frameworks can co-exist within a single political framework.

Seminar Format:

Each three-hour seminar will begin with a discussion panel in which several students will give oral presentations on the readings for that particular week. Each student's presentation will last for roughly ten minutes. Following the presentations, each student on the panel will be given an opportunity to respond to or to comment on the presentations of the other panel members. After the responses, the discussion will be opened up to the rest of the class and will continue for the duration of the session.

Required Texts:

William Galston, *The Practice of Liberal Pluralism*

- Available at the Carleton University Bookstore

Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*

- Available through Amazon.ca:
 - http://www.amazon.ca/After-Virtue-Study-Moral-Theory/dp/0268035040/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1228247737&sr=8-1
- Also available through Chapters.ca:
 - <http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/After-Virtue-Study-Moral-Theory-Alasdair-MacIntyre/9780268035044-item.html?ref=Search+Books%3a+%2527after+virtue%2527>

Other Required Readings:

Students will be required to access all of the other required readings on their own. A binder containing photocopies of all of the assigned articles and chapters will be available in the Department's Resource Centre, Monday to Friday: 8.30-4.30pm (Loeb C666). The Resource Centre operates on the honour system. Please show respect for your fellow students in your use of the reserve materials.

Wherever possible, the books from which the articles and chapters are drawn will also be placed on reserve at MacOdrum Library.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

Panel Presentations	45% (3 x 15% each)
Term Paper	40% (Due March 31)
Seminar Participation	15%

Panel Presentations:

The purpose of the panel presentations is for students to engage in critical discussions of the week's readings and to set the stage for the class discussion that will follow each panel. In their presentations, students should identify central aspects of the arguments in the texts and raise questions about those arguments that can be addressed in the class discussion. Each student will be required to participate in three panel discussions during the term.

Students will be required to submit a short written version of each of their panel presentations. Each paper should be 1000 words in length. The papers will be due at the beginning of each panel discussion.

Term Papers:

Each student will be required to submit a term paper of 4000 words. Students should arrange to meet with the professor well in advance of the due date to discuss their research question and the sources they intend to use. The essay will be due at the beginning of the final seminar session (March 31).

Students must submit a physical copy of their term paper directly to the professor. **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Late essays will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Students who are unable to submit their essay on time may deposit it in the Departmental “Drop Box” (a mail slot in the wall) located in the corridor outside of room B640 Loeb. Assignments are retrieved once every business day at 4:00p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. Assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped as received the next business day.

Late Penalties:

Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of one half letter grade per day (**including Saturdays and Sundays**).

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious and **documented** medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Extensions will not be granted retroactively.

Seminar Participation:

Each student’s seminar participation grade will be based on the quality (not necessarily the quantity) of his or her participation in the seminar discussions. In order to earn a top grade for participation, a student must contribute positively to the learning atmosphere of the seminar. Among other requirements, this entails regular attendance, participation that is respectful of other students and the professor, and demonstration that the student has done the week’s readings, thought critically about them in advance of the seminar session, and arrived prepared to pose questions and critically discuss the readings.

Seminar Schedule:

Week 1 (January 6): Introduction to the course

Week 2 (January 13): Isaiah Berlin

- “Herder and the Enlightenment” in *Three Critics of the Enlightenment*

Week 3 (January 20): Isaiah Berlin

- “The Pursuit of the Ideal” in *The Crooked Timber of Humanity*
- “The Apotheosis of the Romantic Will: The Revolt Against the Myth of an Ideal World” in *The Crooked Timber of Humanity*
- “Nationalism: Past Neglect and Present Power” in *Against the Current*

Week 4 (January 27): Charles Taylor

- Isaiah Berlin, “Introduction” in *Philosophy in an Age of Pluralism* (pp.1-3)
- Charles Taylor’s response to Berlin in “Charles Taylor Replies” in *Philosophy in an Age of Pluralism* (pp.213-214)
- “The Diversity of Goods” in *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical Papers 2*
- “Inescapable Frameworks” in *Sources of the Self*

Week 5 (February 3): Charles Taylor

- “The Self in Moral Space” in *Sources of the Self*
- “Ethics of Inarticulacy” in *Sources of the Self*
- “Moral Sources” in *Sources of the Self*

Week 6 (February 10): Alasdair MacIntyre

- *After Virtue*

Week 7 (February 24): Alasdair MacIntyre

- *After Virtue*

Week 8 (March 3): John Gray

- “The Politics of Cultural Diversity” in *Post-Liberalism: Studies in Political Thought*
- “Pluralism and Toleration in Contemporary Political Philosophy” in *Political Studies* (2000: Vol.48, 323-333)
- “Agnostic Liberalism” in *Enlightenment’s Wake*

Week 9 (March 10): John Rawls

- *Political Liberalism* (Lectures IV and VI)

Week 10 (March 17): William Galston

- *The Practice of Liberal Pluralism* (Ch.1-4)

Week 11 (March 24): William Galston

- *The Practice of Liberal Pluralism* (Ch.5-9)

Week 12 (March 31): William Galston

- *The Practice of Liberal Pluralism* (Ch.10-12)
 - Robert B. Talisse, "Can Value Pluralists be Comprehensive Liberals? Galston's Liberal Pluralism" in *Contemporary Political Theory* (2004: 3, 127-139)
 - William Galston, "Liberal Pluralism: A Response to Talisse" in *Contemporary Political Theory* (2004: 3, 140-147)
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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 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. 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. 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.