

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2237E–Section 650
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY (ONLINE)
Summer 2018

Dr. R. VandeWetering

Lectures: available by Tuesday at noon

E-mail: Please check your UWO e-mail account for periodic messages. My e-mail address is rvandewe@uwo.ca. When you e-mail me, put in the subject heading “2237E–your last name”. This will help prevent your message being deleted as spam.

E-mail is the main way that you can contact me. You may visit me at my office SSC 4143 or phone me at (519) 661-2111, ext. 85177. Please email me to arrange a time to meet or talk. For a number of weeks I will be out of the city and will only be able to be in contact by email.

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites *Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.*

Prerequisites: Politics 1020E

Antirequisites: Phil 2800 F/G, Phil 2801 F/G, Phil 2802E

Course Description:

To properly study politics one must think theoretically. In this course we will examine a number of well-known political ideas centered on the good life (including legitimacy, contract theory, revolution, civil disobedience, just war, the state, justice, and more!) by considering how these ideas are articulated by a selection of historically prominent political theorists.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should a) be able to describe and evaluate the ideas of a selection of historically prominent political theorists;

b) be able to relate the ideas of these theorists to themes centered on the question of what constitutes a “good life” and related political questions; and

c) improve their writing skills.

Required Textbook

Morgan, Michael L., ed. Classics of Moral and Political Theory (5th ed). Indianapolis, U.S.: Hackett, 2011.

Evaluation

Essay One	20%	due June 3 by 11:55 PM
Essay Two	25%	due July 20 by 11:55 PM
Special Reading Questions	10%	
Final Exam	45%	during final exam period July 30-Aug 2

Essays: minimum 2500 words (not including bibliography or footnotes), maximum 3000; typed; double-spaced; you must keep a copy for yourself and you must keep your notes and rough drafts; if you make a reference to or quote from the internet, you must print the page cited, highlight the quote, and include it with the essay as an appendix. Include page numbers with every non-internet reference. Include a title page—please do not put your name on the inside of the essay (e.g. headers); also include your e-mail address on the title-page. Submit an electronic copy at OWL by 11:55 PM on the due date. **Late essays:** Extensions will only be granted in exceptional—and properly documented—medical circumstances, and by prior arrangement with instructor. Computer problems do not qualify as an excuse: prepare your essay assuming that you will have problems with your hard drive. Late papers will be penalized **10% per day**, including weekends. Social science students should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> if you have a problem.

Special Reading Questions: 10% of final mark. There are 10 topics. You will be required to answer two questions on each topic. Your answers will be typed and fill at least one page. You will via email submit to me at rvandewe@uwo.ca your submission by 11:55 PM on the specified dates with the specified title in the subject line. The first four will be graded out of 100; the final six will be graded on a pass/fail basis (pass = 100%).

Final: 3 hours. 75 mc question; 3 essay questions (in essay format: intro, thesis, conc); there will be a choice of questions.

Readings: most are in Morgan; the rest are available at OWL.

Lectures: will be available at OWL on Tuesdays. The lectures are the intellectual property of Richard VandeWetering. You may not be copy them or re-broadcast them in any medium.

Lecture Schedule

for each of the following writers, consider: what is their view of human nature? What is the good life? Which political institutions are required for the good life?

Note: M = Morgan

1. MAY 7: INTRODUCTION; HOMER; PLATO

Readings: “2237ancienttimeline”(OWL); “2237IliadandOdyssey”(OWL); M 75-130

Special Reading Topic #1 due MAY 10 at 11:55 PM: Antigone’s Choice: send email with subject heading “Antigone–your name”

Read: M 3-7, 25-30

Questions: a) List the claimants to whom Antigone and King Creon have duties or owed obligations. Please note that Antigone is engaged to Creon’s son Haemon. Rank the obligations for Antigone and for Creon in terms of priority.

b) Suggest at least one more possible claimant to whom an obligation might be owed but is unmentioned by Sophocles. Which claimant would have priority for you?

2. MAY 13: PLATO

Readings: M 130-220

Special Reading Topic #2 due May 13 at 11:55 PM: Socrates' Choice: send email with subject heading "Socrates-your name"

Read: M 64-71

Questions: a) "The good of our children must take priority in our decisionmaking." How would Socrates respond to this statement?

b) If your child committed a crime, under what circumstances would you turn them in? Under what circumstances would you help them evade the law?

3. MAY 20: PLATO; ARISTOTLE

Readings: M 220-251; M 255-60, 265-73, 284-9, 295-307, 328-331.

Special Reading Topic #3 due May 20 at 11:55 PM: Plato: Why be Just? send email with subject heading "Plato-your name"

Read: M 94-6, 229-34.

Questions: a) List Plato's reasons for being just, even if no one is looking. Which is most convincing? Why?

b) Suggest at least one other possible reason, and defend it.

4. MAY 27: ARISTOTLE

Readings: M 361-416

Special Reading Topic #4 due May 27 at 11:55 PM: Aristotle on Education: send email with subject heading "Aristotle-your name"

Read: M 416-9

Questions: a) "Education is the key to living a good life." How would Aristotle respond to this statement?

b) List three reasons for attending university. How would Aristotle rank them? How would you rank them?

ESSAY DUE SUNDAY JUNE 3RD AT 11:55 PM

5. JUNE 3: CYNICS; EPICUREANS; STOICS; CHRISTIANS

Readings: M 422-7; 430-42; 460-89; 445-57; "2237Cynics" (OWL)

6. JUNE 10: CHRISTIANS; MACHIAVELLI

Readings: "2237CalvinInstitutes01" (OWL); M 509-74

Special Reading Topic #5 due June 10 at 11:55 PM: Aquinas on Just War and Rebellion: send email with subject heading "Aquinas-your name"

Read: M 485-7

Questions: a) Rank the three requirements for a just war in terms of importance, and explain why you rated the first as most important. What has Aquinas left out? Suggest at least one more "requirement".

b) For Aquinas, when is rebellion permissible?

7. JUNE 17: MACHIAVELLI; HOBBS

Readings: M 578-666

Special Reading Topic #6 due June 17 at 11:55 PM: Machiavelli: send email with subject heading "Machiavelli-your name"

Read: M 517-22, 529-44, 544-6, 556-8, 568-73; "2237Machiavelli" (OWL)

Questions: a) When does Machiavelli think it is okay to use mercenaries? What would he say about the Canadian Armed Forces?

b) Is "Virtu" necessary in 2018 Canadian politics?

8. JUNE 24: HOBBS; LOCKE

Readings: M 666-703, 711-37; “2237SocietyPacificChristians” (OWL)

Special Reading Topic #7 due June 24 at 11:55 PM: Hobbes on Liberty: send email with subject heading “Hobbes–your name”

Read: M 648-52

Questions: a) “Liberty is essential for a good life.” How would Hobbes respond to this statement?

b) Hobbes writes that the Sovereign might ‘praetermit’ (permit) some liberties to subjects.(p. 649)

Which of those listed would be most important to your good life, and why?

9. JULY 1: LOCKE; ROUSSEAU

Readings: M 737-776; 882-904

Special Reading Topic #8 due JULY 2 at 11:55 PM: Locke on Toleration: send email with subject heading “Locke–your name”

Read: M 777-800

Questions: a) Which of Locke’s arguments for toleration is most convincing?

b) Suggest a possible argument for toleration which Locke does not offer.

10. JULY 8: ROUSSEAU

Readings: M 904-41

Special Reading Topic #9 due July 8 at 11:55 PM: Rousseau on Progress: send email with subject heading “Rousseau–your name”

Read: M 828-66

Questions: a) For Rousseau, what was “the profoundest plan that ever entered the mind of man”?

b) In which ways are humans better off in ‘civilized’ society, and in which ways worse?

11. JULY 15: MILL (BENTHAM and TAYLOR)

Readings: “2237Bentham” (OWL); M 1010-68, 1071-3.

Special Reading Topic #10 due July 15 at 11:55 PM: Mill and Taylor on the Subjection of Women: send email with subject heading “Mill/Taylor–your name”

Read: Morgan 1103-57

Questions: a) Why did Mill and Taylor think that the subjection of women to men was not only bad for women, but also for men?

b) In 1869, Mill and Taylor wrote that “Women are unlikely to rebel collectively against men.” Is this truer or less true in 2018?

ESSAY DUE SUNDAY JULY 22ND AT 11:55 PM

12. JULY 22: MARX

Readings: M 1160-6, 1183-1213; “2237OllmannonMarx” (OWL); “2237MarxOllmannHeld” (OWL)

FINAL EXAM: IN EXAM PERIOD JULY 30-AUGUST 2

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.