

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2237E–Section 001  
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY  
2016-7**

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Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:25 North Campus Building 113

Term Office Hours: SSC 4143 Tuesday 11:45-1:00, Thursday 11:45-2:00

E-mail: Please check your UWO e-mail account for periodic messages. My e-mail address is [rvandewe@uwo.ca](mailto: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.

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**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 (the good life, legitimacy, contract theory, revolution, civil disobedience, just war, the state, justice, and more!) by considering how they 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 discussion and essay-writing skills.

**Required Textbooks**

Cahn, Steven M., ed. Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts (3rd ed). New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

## Evaluation

November Test	15%	mc on Nov 22, essay q on Nov 24; *students last name A-F in Elborn College 2155* *students last name G-Z in Elborn College 2168*
Essay One	20%	due Dec 6 at the beginning of class
Essay Two	25%	due Mar 14 at the beginning of class
Tutorial Questions	10%	
Final Exam	30%	during final exam period

**November Test:** 50 mc questions, 1 essay question (choice of three questions)

**Essays:** 2500 words (not including bibliography or footnotes); 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 a hard copy in class and an electronic copy at Turn-it-in on the due date. **Late essays:** Papers must be submitted to me **personally** in class, during office-hours, or at times specified on or before the due-date. Do not place papers under the instructor's door. 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.

**Tutorials:** 10% of final mark. There will be approximately 20 tutorials. You will personally submit to the Teaching Assistant at the beginning of every tutorial a paper with answers to two questions. The questions may be found in Schedules C and D. Your two answers must be neatly hand-written or hand-printed, single-spaced, and fill at least one side of a sheet of paper. The submission of an answer of another student is cheating and will be reported to the department chair, and you will (at minimum) receive a mark of zero for your entire “Tutorial Questions” mark. The Teaching Assistant will randomly choose one sheet to provide the starting point for discussion. Marking: at the end of a tutorial, the Teaching Assistant will announce that answers will be marked. This will happen at the end of 12 tutorials. The answers will be graded as pass/fail. If you arrive late or leave early, your answer will be marked a fail. If you do not hand in an answer, you will be marked a fail. Each pass is worth 1%. Your answer will only be returned if it has failed. Your 10 best results of these 12 will make up your “Tutorial Questions” mark.

**Final:** 3 hours. 75 mc question; 2 essay questions (in essay format: intro, thesis, conc); there will be a choice of questions.

**Readings:** most are in Cahn; the rest are available at OWL or in the Political Science Resource Room (files in the bookcase just inside the entrance).

## Lecture Schedule

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

Note: C = Cahn

### Schedule A: The “Ancients”

week	topic	readings	tutorial (for details see schedule C)
Sept 8	Introduction, Homeric Greeks		no tutorial
Sept 13, 15	Homeric Greeks, Plato	“Ancient Timeline”(in course outline) “The Iliad and The Odyssey” (OWL) C 31-66	On Gangs
Sept 20, 22	Plato	C 66-105	Antigone’s Choice
Sept 27, 29	Plato	C 105-136	Plato: why be Just?
Oct 4, 6	Plato; Aristotle	C 142-165	Plato on the Cave; on Art
Oct 11, 13	Aristotle	C 165-197	no tutorial Monday or Tuesday W, Th, F: Socrates’ choice
Oct 18, 20	Aristotle	C 197-222	M, Tu: Socrates’ choice W, Th, F: Aristotle on Education
Oct 25 no class on the 27th	Aristotle; Epicureanism	“Epicureanism” (OWL)	M, Tu: Aristotle on Education no tutorial Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
Nov 1, 3	Epicureanism; Stoicism	“Epictetus” (OWL)	Aristotle on Justice
Nov 8, 10	Stoicism; Christian thought: Aquinas	C 256-67	test practise
Nov 15, 17	Christian thought: Augustine, Calvin	C 243-251 “Calvin” (OWL)	Aquinas on Just War and Sediton
Nov 22, 24	Tests at Elborn College 22nd <u>and</u> 24th	mc questions on Tuesday Essay questions on Thursday	no tutorial

### Schedule B: The “Moderns”

date	topic	readings	tutorial (see Schedule C)
Nov 29, Dec 1	Machiavelli	C 273-292	Machiavelli
Dec 6	Machiavelli <b>ESSAY</b>	C 293-308 <b>DUE AT THE</b>	no tutorial <b>BEGINNING OF CLASS</b>

### Schedule C: Tutorials: The “Ancients”

week of	tutorial topic	readings	questions
Sept 8	no tutorial		
Sept 12	On Gangs	“Teen Gangstas” (OWL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which reason for joining a gang is most important? Why?</li> <li>2. Suggest at least one other possible reason. If it helps, think about other types of gangs (eg the mafia, clans, cliques, terrorist groups).</li> </ol>
Sept 19	Antigone’s Choice	“Antigone” (OWL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List the claimants to whom Antigone has duties or owes obligations. Which is most important to her?</li> <li>2. Observe (or ask) one of your friends (or ask yourself): how would he/she/you rank these obligations? Would he/she/you include any other people/groups/organizations/deities and where would he/she/you rank it with respect to Antigone’s list?</li> </ol>
Sept 26	Plato: why be Just?	C 52-3, 91-4 “The Lion, the Man, and the Hydra”(OWL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List Plato’s reasons for being just, even if no one is looking. Which is most convincing? Why?</li> <li>2. Suggest at least one other possible reason, and defend it.</li> </ol>
Oct 3	Plato on the Cave; on Art	C 105-110 “Plato on Art”(OWL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do people like it in Plato’s ‘cave’?</li> <li>2. What would Plato say about the story of Santa Claus?</li> </ol>
Oct 12, 13, 14 and Oct 17, 18	Socrates’ Choice	C 22-30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List Socrates’ arguments for accepting the sentence of the court.</li> <li>2. Which is least convincing?</li> </ol>

Oct 19, 20, 21 and Oct 24, 25	Aristotle on Education	C 217-222 "Aristotle on Education"(OWL)	1. What is the point of education for Aristotle? 2. Suggest one other reason for going to university.
Oct 31	Aristotle on Justice	"Aristotle on Justice"(OWL)	1. Make a chart of the different types of justice. 2. Rank the types of justice in terms of which is most important for political life.
Nov 7	Test Practise		
Nov 14	Aquinas on Just War and Sedition	"Aquinas" (OWL)	1. Rank the three requirements for a just war. What has Aquinas left out? Suggest at least one more "requirement". 2. Can a person refuse to fight?
Nov 21	no tutorial		
Nov 28	Machiavelli	C 273-292	1. "The ends justify the means". When is lying (an immoral behaviour) acceptable in the pursuit of political ends? When is it not? 2. When is killing acceptable in the pursuit of political ends? When is it not?
Dec 5	no tutorial		

	<b>Homeric Greece</b>	<b>Classical Greece</b>	<b>Hellenic Greece</b>	<b>Christians</b>
<b>Time Period</b>	<b>pre-800 B.C.</b>	<b>550-300 B.C.</b>	<b>300+ ; Rome conquers 148 B.C.</b>	<b>0-1500 AD</b>
<b>Writers</b>	<b>Homer</b>	<b>Plato Aristotle</b>	<b>Epictetus Epicurus</b>	<b>Augustine Aquinas Calvin</b>
<b>Economy (Little Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe)</b>	<b>*Little: Gift Eco</b>  <b>*pre-money</b>  <b>*low opinion of commerce</b>	<b>*Gift + Profit Eco</b>  <b>*money</b>  <b>*low opinion of commerce</b>	<b>*Gift + Profit Eco</b>  <b>*money</b>  <b>*low opinion of commerce</b>	<b>*Gift + Profit Eco</b>  <b>*money</b>  <b>*low opinion of commerce/ transition</b>
<b>Political Unit</b>	<b>no polis</b>	<b>polis</b>	<b>empire</b>	<b>empire church</b>
<b>Basic Social Unit</b>	<b>Eikos/Oikos</b> <b>*agathos</b> <b>*aischron</b>	<b>Eikos</b> <b>“oiknomeia”</b> <b>= household management</b>	<b>Eikos</b>	<b>family</b>
<b>“Insurance”</b>	<b>Philia</b> <b>*kinship</b> <b>*friendship</b>	<b>Philia + some polis</b>	<b>Philia + some empire</b>	<b>Christians, church</b>

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **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](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](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.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

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](mailto: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.