

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2237E–Section 001
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
2017-8

ph: (519) 661-2111, ext. 85177

Dr. R. VandeWetering

Lectures: Tuesday 10:30-12:30 North Campus Building 113

Term Office Hours: SSC 4143 Tuesday 12:45-2:00, Thursday 1:00-3:00

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.

TA emails:

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 Textbook

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

*Most of you will need this textbook for your essays.

Evaluation

November Test	15%	Nov 21
	students last name A-F in Elborn College 2155	
	students last name G-Z in Elborn College 2168	
Essay One	20%	due Dec 5 at the beginning of class
Essay Two	25%	due Mar 13 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). Essay topics will be provided near the beginning of each term. Unless otherwise specified, you must use the class textbook as your source. Essays must be 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 by 10:30 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 18 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 the schedules below. 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. Your Teaching Assistant will randomly choose one sheet to provide the starting point for discussion. Marking: at the end of 12 of the tutorials, the Teaching Assistant will announce that answers will be marked. 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. Please keep a copy for yourself. 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 Morgan; the rest are available at OWL.

Lecture and Tutorial Schedule

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

FIRST TERM

WEEK ONE: SEPT 12: INTRODUCTION; THE AGE OF WARRIOR BANDS: HOMER

Readings: "Ancient Timeline" (OWL), "The Iliad and The Odyssey" (OWL), Morgan 75-93

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWO: SEPT 19: THE AGE OF THE POLIS: PLATO

Readings: Morgan 93-147

Tutorial Topic Sept 17: On Gangs

"Teen Gangstas" (OWL)

1. Rank in importance the reasons for joining a gang. Why did you rank the first as most important?
2. Suggest at least one other possible reason. If it helps, think about other types of gangs (eg the mafia, clans, cliques, terrorist groups).

WEEK THREE: SEPT 26: PLATO

Readings: Morgan 147-203

Tutorial Topic Sept 25: Antigone's Choice

Read: Morgan 3-5 (lines 1-99), 6-7 (lines 192-210)

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. Which obligation was most important to her? To Creon? To you?

b) Now read pp. 25-30. Does this affect your answer? Why or why not?

WEEK FOUR: OCT 3: PLATO

Readings: Morgan 203-251

Tutorial Topic Oct 2: Plato: Why be Just?

Read: Morgan 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.

WEEK FIVE: OCT 10: READING WEEK

*by this week you should have chosen an essay topic; spend the week reading your main book!

WEEK SIX: OCT 17: PLATO/ARISTOTLE

Readings: Morgan 255-60, 265-73, 284-9, 295-307, 328-31.

Tutorial Topic Oct 16: Plato on the Cave; on Art

Read: Morgan 186-90, 105-10

a) Why might it be nice to live in Plato's 'cave'?

b) Are Plato's ideas on the political function of art true for the 21st century? If not, what do you think that political function of art should be?

WEEK SEVEN: OCT 24: ARISTOTLE

Readings: Morgan 361-96

Tutorial Topic Oct 23: Socrates' Choice

Read: Morgan 64-71

Questions: a) List the arguments of Socrates for accepting the sentence of the court, and those of Crito for resisting its sentence. For each, which is the most convincing argument (and why)?

b) How could Plato argue against Socrates' arguments? Use arguments from books 2 to 10 in The Republic.

WEEK EIGHT: OCT 31: ARISTOTLE

Readings: Morgan 396-416

Tutorial Topic Oct 30: Aristotle on Education

Read: Morgan 415-9, 355-6, "Aristotle on Education" (OWL)

Questions: a) What is the point of education for Aristotle?

b) Suggest three other reasons for going to university and rank them.

WEEK NINE: NOV 7: ARISTOTLE; EPICUREANISM

Readings: Morgan 422-7

Tutorial Topic Nov 6: Aristotle on Justice

Read: Morgan 295-303

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.

WEEK TEN: NOV 14: THE AGE OF EMPIRES: EPICUREANISM; STOICISM

Readings: Morgan 430-42, "Epictetus" (OWL)

Tutorial Topic Nov 13: Test Practise

WEEK ELEVEN: NOV 21: TEST

Test at Elborn College: *students last name A-F in Elborn College 2155*

students last name G-Z in Elborn College 2168

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWELVE: NOV 28: THE AGE OF EMPIRES: AQUINAS; AUGUSTINE

Readings: Morgan 460-89, 445-57

Tutorial Topic Nov 27: Aquinas on Just War and Rebellion

Read: Morgan 485-7

Questions: a) Rank the three requirements for a just war. What has Aquinas left out? Suggest at least one more "requirement".

b) For Aquinas, when is rebellion permissible?

WEEK THIRTEEN: DEC 5: THE AGE OF STATES: CALVIN; MACHIAVELLI

Readings: "Calvin" (OWL), Morgan 509-44

No Tutorials this Week

ESSAY DUE TODAY AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

SECOND TERM**WEEK FOURTEEN: JAN 9: THE AGE OF STATES: CALVIN; MACHIAVELLI**

Readings: "Calvin" (OWL), Morgan 509-44

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK FIFTEEN: JAN 16: MACHIAVELLI; HOBBS

Readings: Morgan 544-574, 578-604

Tutorial Topic Jan 15: Machiavelli ...and mercenaries ...and Trump.

Read: Morgan 517-22, 529-34, 544-6, 556-8, 568-73.

Questions: a) What is the role of the military in a political unit?

b) Are Machiavelli's ideas about leadership and the military (both in The Prince and The Discourses) relevant in 2018 Canada or the United States?

WEEK SIXTEEN: JAN 23: HOBBS

Readings: Morgan 604-48

Tutorial Topic Jan 22: Hobbes on Power (Buwhahaha)

Read: Morgan 604-6

Questions: a) Which three elements of power for Hobbes increases a person's power most?

b) Which powers are increasing in importance in 2018 Canada or the United States? Which are decreasing?

WEEK SEVENTEEN: JAN 30: HOBBS

Readings: Morgan 648-686

Tutorial Topic Jan 29: Hobbes on Human Nature

Read: Morgan 580-90, 593-604

Questions: a) Which two parts of Hobbes' account of human nature seem correct? Which two parts seem incorrect?

b) In our course we have seen multiple accounts of human nature. Of those we have read, which theorist's account seems most accurate?

WEEK EIGHTEEN: FEB 6: HOBBS; LOCKE

Readings: Morgan 686-703, 711-37

Tutorial Topic Feb 5: Locke on Acorns and Apples

Read: Morgan 718-25

Questions: a) For Locke, what was the connection of labour and property?

b) "Money ruins everything." How would Locke respond to this statement?

WEEK NINETEEN: FEB 13: LOCKE

Readings: Morgan 737-776

Tutorial Topic Feb 12: Locke on Toleration

Read: Morgan 777-800

Questions: a) Which of Locke's arguments for toleration is weakest?

b) What are two possible arguments for toleration which Locke does not offer?

WEEK TWENTY: FEB 20: READING WEEK

***by this week you should have chosen an essay topic; spend the week reading your main book!**

WEEK TWENTY-ONE: FEB 27: LOCKE; ROUSSEAU

Readings: Morgan 882-904

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWENTY-TWO: MAR 6: ROUSSEAU

Readings: Morgan 904-24

Tutorial Topic Mar 5: Orwell on Politics and Language

Read: "Orwell"(OWL)

Questions: a) To Orwell, what were the intellectual and political consequences of the writing habits he criticized?

b) Of which words/phrases/slogans used in Canadian politics in 2018 should we be wary?

WEEK TWENTY-THREE: MAR 13: ROUSSEAU; MILL

Readings: Morgan 924-41, "Bentham"(OWL)

ESSAY DUE TODAY AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR: MAR 20: MILL

Readings: Morgan 1073-6, 1010-7

Tutorial Topic Mar 19: Mill on the Subjection of Women

Read: Morgan 1103-57

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

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

WEEK TWENTY-FIVE: MAR 27: MILL; MARX

Readings: Morgan 1017-68

Tutorial Topic Mar 26: Marx's Manifesto

Read: M 1183-1202

Questions: a) Why did Marx suggest that a revolution is necessary and unavoidable?

b) In 2018 Canada, which people would be considered the proletariat? Which the bourgeoisie?

WEEK TWENTY-SIX: APR 3: MARX

Readings: M 1160-83, 1202-13; "OllmannonMarx" (OWL)

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWENTY-SEVEN: APR 10: RAWLS

Readings: "Rawls" (OWL)

No Tutorials this Week

FINAL EXAM: IN EXAM PERIOD APR 14-30

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.

*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 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.