

Political Science 2537F
Foundations of Political Theory

Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr Elizabeth Finneron-Burns (efinnero@uwo.ca).

This course is an introduction to the study of political theory. We will address several big questions: (i) what is the purpose of the state? (ii) what does it mean to be free and what are the limits of liberty? (iii) what is equality and should we pursue it? (iv) what is justice and how is it best achieved? The focus will be on developing an understanding of the different answers to these questions, but also how to develop your own views of these matters: what do you think and, more importantly why? The emphasis throughout the course will be on critical review of the arguments provided in the readings and by your fellow students.

Assessment

Critical Analysis Paper (30%) – Due November 13, NOON

In Class Test (20%) - October 12

Tutorial Participation (10%) - Ongoing

December Final Exam (40%) - Date TBD

Late work will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof. In extenuating circumstances, extensions may be granted, but only if arranged in advance of the due date. Please note that computer problems do not constitute extenuating circumstances—you are strongly advised to back up your work. If you think you may need an extension, please be in touch as early as possible.

Please note that if the assignment is due at 11:00am on January 1, submitting it at 11:01am January 1 and 10:59 January 2 will receive a 5% penalty. It also means that submitting it at 11:01am January 2 incurs a 10% penalty.