

**+UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2237E–Section 650  
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY (DISTANCE ONLINE)  
Summer 2021**

Dr. R. VandeWetering

Lectures: available by Tuesday at noon (but usually earlier)

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 “2237–your last name”. This will help prevent your message being deleted as spam.

E-mail is the best way to 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 study politics properly one must think theoretically. In this course we will examine a number of well-known political theories centered on liberal egalitarianism and relate them to contemporary issues.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should a) be able to describe and evaluate a selection of political theories;

b) be able to relate these theories to contemporary issues; and

c) improve their writing skills.

**Required Textbooks**

custom course textbook: available through the UWO Bookstore

“Contemporary Political Philosophy 2e Web pdf Univ Western Ontario”

ebook ISBN: 9780190169091

**Evaluation**

Essay One	25%	due June 13 by 11:55 PM
Essay Two	25%	due July 11 by 11:55 PM
Special Reading Questions	25%	first S.R.Q. due May 9 by 11:55 PM
Final Exam	25%	during final exam period July 26-29

**Self-reporting:** for both essays and special reading questions, if you self-report, your essay or special reading question submission will then be due 48 hours after the exact time it was due. If you need more time than this, then you will have to obtain a note from an academic counsellor. You may use the self-reporting service only once during a summer course. You may not self-report for the final exam.

**Essays:** minimum 2500 words (not including bibliography or footnotes), maximum 3000; 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 a source on the internet, you must give me an exact reference so that I can find it. Include page numbers with every non-internet reference. Include a title page with the title, the essay question number, your name, and your email address—please do not put your name on the inside of the essay (e.g. headers). Submit an electronic copy at OWL under Assignments 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. **Please note that one minute late = late.** Social science students should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> if you have a problem.

**Essays:** Watch VandeWeteringEssayLecture (OWL) for tips about writing essays for Dr. VandeWetering. Generally you only need two sources for your essay: the book (or books) of a theorist (specified below), and a book (or academic article) to describe the issue.

**Essays:** For each essay you will examine an issue from the point of view of a theorist. Please note that you may not use the same writer or “school” for both essays; for example, if you use Singer for the first essay you may not use another Utilitarian for your second essay.

**\*\*\*Please immediately take steps to borrow or purchase the books you intend to use.**

***Utilitarian:***

Singer, Peter. Practical Ethics (2nd ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

or

Singer, Peter. The Most Good You Can Do. New Haven, U.S.: Yale University Press, 2015.

or

Mill, John Stuart. On Liberty, Utilitarianism, The Subjection of Women.

Note—you must read all three pieces for the essay.

***Liberal Egalitarian:***

Rawls, John. A Theory of Justice. Cambridge, U.S.: Belknap, 1971.

***Libertarian:***

Nozick, Robert. Anarchy, State, and Utopia. New York: Basic, 1974.

***Marxist:***

Marx, Karl. The 1844 Manuscripts, The Communist Manifesto, and The German Ideology. (Each available at [www.marxists.org/archive](http://www.marxists.org/archive)) Note—you must read all three pieces for the essay.

***Socialist Feminism:***

Jaggar, Alison. Feminist Politics and Human Nature. Brighton, U.K.: Harvester, 1983.

**1st Essay Topics:** due June 13 by 11:55 PM at OWL

1. “Civil disobedience is never acceptable.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
2. “The Australian system of mandatory voting is morally justifiable.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
3. “Every person has a moral duty to become a politician.” How would one theorist reply to this

statement?

**2nd Essay Topics:** due July 11 by 11:55 PM at OWL

1. “Torture is never an acceptable tool for a government.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
2. “Quebec Government restrictions on the wearing of religious symbols by public servants are morally justifiable.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
3. “Requiring citizens to have vaccine passports in order to go into a public library is morally justifiable.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?

**Special Reading Questions:** 25% of final mark. There are 5 S.R.Q.s, each worth 5% of the final mark.. Your first S.R.Q. is due May 9th. You will be required to answer two questions on each topic. Your answers will be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 750 words. You will submit to me via email at rvandewe@uwo.ca your submission by 11:55 PM on the specified dates with the specified title in the subject line. Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day; **please note that one minute late = late.**

**Final:** “take-home exam”: on the exam date at the time of the scheduled exam the exam will be made available at OWL in the resources folder. You will do two questions. Each individual question requires an answer from 750 (minimum) to 1500 words (maximum). You will submit your two answers in one file at OWL under Assignments. The exam is due 72 hours after the time of the scheduled exam. The essay answers must be in essay format (intro, thesis, conc).

**Readings:** textbook; the rest are available at OWL in the *Resources* file.

**Lectures:** will be available at OWL on Tuesdays by noon (but usually earlier). The lectures are the intellectual property of Richard VandeWetering. You may not be copy them or re-broadcast them in any medium.

**Lecture Schedule**

All non-textbook readings are available at OWL.

**WEEK ONE: MAY 2: INTRODUCTION; CONTEMPORARY MORAL POLITICAL THEORY; NATURAL LAW**

**Readings:**

2237outlinesummer21; 2237Intuitionism; 2237NaturalLaw; 2237Stanlis

**WEEK TWO: MAY 9: UTILITARIANISM**

**Readings:** Kymlicka chap 2; 2237Bentham; 2237MillUtilitarianism; 2237deLazariRadekandSinger

**Special Reading Topic #1 due MAY 9 at 11:55 PM: *Antigone’s Choice*: send email with subject heading “Antigone–your name”**

Read: 2237Antigone

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 a person might have an obligation but whom is unmentioned by Sophocles. Which claimant of all of them would have priority for you?

**WEEK THREE: MAY 16: LIBERAL EGALITARIANISM**

**Readings:** Kymlicka chap 3; 2237Rawls

**Special Reading Topic #2 due May 16 at 11:55 PM: *Socrates' Choice*:** send email with subject heading "Socrates–your name"

Read: 2237Socrates

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?

**WEEK FOUR: MAY 23: LIBERTARIANISM**

**Readings:** Kymlicka chap 4; 2237Nozick; 2237LockeProperty

**Special Reading Topic #3 due May 23 at 11:55 PM: *Locke on Acorns and Apples*:** send email with subject heading "Acorns–your name"

Read: 2237LockeProperty

Questions: a) "If I have put my labour into something then it becomes mine, regardless of anything else." How would Locke respond to this statement?

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

**WEEK FIVE: MAY 30: MARXISM**

**Readings:** Kymlicka chap 5; 2237MarxCommunistManifesto

**WEEK SIX: JUNE 6: FEMINISM**

**Readings:** 2237Kymlicka; 2237Jaggar

**ESSAY DUE SUNDAY JUNE 13TH AT 11:55 PM**

**WEEK SEVEN: JUNE 13: INSTITUTIONS; DEMOCRACY; CITIZENSHIP; OBLIGATION**

**Readings:** McKinnon chap 4; 2237OllmannMarx; 2237MarxOllmannHeld; 2237Mason

**WEEK EIGHT: JUNE 20: RIGHTS**

**Readings:** McKinnon chap 11; 2237Hohfeld

**WEEK NINE: JUNE 27: LIBERTY AND TOLERATION**

**Readings:** McKinnon chaps 2, 7; 2237MillLiberty; 2237WaldronHomelessness

**Special Reading Topic #4 due June 27 at 11:55 PM: *Locke on Toleration*:** send email with subject heading "Locke–your name"

Read: 2237LockeToleration

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

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

**WEEK TEN: JULY 4: EQUALITY**

**Readings:** McKinnon chap 6; 2237Swift; 2237Anderson (read pp. 312-337); 2237FourieandRid

**ESSAY DUE SUNDAY JULY 11TH AT 11:55 PM**

**WEEK ELEVEN: JULY 11: MULTICULTURALISM; JUSTICE FOR PAST AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**Readings:** McKinnon chap 8; 2237Caney; 2237WaldronHistoricInjustice.

**WEEK TWELVE: JULY 18: GLOBAL POVERTY; WAR AND INTERVENTION**

**Readings:** McKinnon chaps 10, 13; 2237SingerRichPoor; 2237Tan; 2237RawlsLawofPeoples

**Special Reading Topic #5 due July 18 at 11:55 PM** Aquinas on Just War and Rebellion: send email with subject heading "Aquinas–your name"

Read: 2237Aquinas: note that Aquinas writes in a peculiar way: he gives wrong answers first, and in the middle gives his answer.

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?

**FINAL EXAM: IN EXAM PERIOD JULY 26TH TO 29TH**

## **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 [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.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. [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](https://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 [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca)
- Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:

<https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>

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

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

### **Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration**

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:  
Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

- For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are **not** an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing

disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the **online Self-Reported Absence portal**. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities **within 48 hours or less**.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: Students will be allowed:

- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- Self-reported absences **will not be** allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;
- Self-reporting **may not be** used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence**

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence**

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.