

The University of Western Ontario

Political Science 2237E-650

Introduction to Political Theory

Summer 2011 – online

Instructor: H. Brown

SSC Rm. # 4141.

519-661-2111 ext. 85001

hbrown2@uwo.ca

Office Hours – Mon. Wed. 10:30-Noon or by appointment

Prerequisite: Politics 2020E - Anti-requisites: Philosophy 2180F/G, 2181E or 2207F/G.

Course Description:

“To understand Rousseau you must read Rossaeus, and to appreciate the latter you must go back to Aquinas, to Hildebrand and to Augustine. The sonorous phrases of The Declaration of Independence or The Rights of Man are not an original discovery; they are the heirs of all the ages, the depository of the emotions and the thoughts of seventy generations of culture.”

John Neville Figgis

This idea is in itself not a new thought. Aristotle, in his *Politics*, wrote “In this subject, as in all others, the best method of investigation is to study things in the process of development from the beginning.” Therefore this course will introduce the student to some of the more important theories developed over the past 2500 years of Western Civilization. Part one will explore the period from the Greeks (Plato) to the Renaissance (Machiavelli), examining such concepts as the nature of justice, community, law, empire, natural law, the relationship between Church and State, constitutionalism, and “political realism”. In part two we will cover the “modern” period beginning with Hobbes and running to the contemporary. Ideas such as contract, “civil society”, self interest, democracy, capitalism and communism, liberalism, community and identity politics will be examined.

The economist John Maynard Keynes wrote in his book *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*, that practical men who believe themselves immune from abstract ideas are ruled by little else than the ideas, right or wrong, of long dead economists and political philosophers. In order then to be able to better understand the forces at work in our communal life we need to be able to sift through the ideas that have guided our public life, our public institutions and our rulers over the ages. To do this we need to begin, as Aristotle said, at the beginning.

Notice re: Prerequisites/Anti-requisites:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of any prerequisites may not be used as a basis for 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.** Students should also take note of the new policy on “Academic Accommodation” which can be found on the Academic Counselor’s website.

Course Organization:

Students will be expected to keep up with the weekly readings. To aid in the understanding of the texts lectures will be posted on an ongoing basis during the course. These lectures will expand your understanding of the ideas being presented in the texts but are not to be seen as substitutes for reading the original works.

Evaluation:

One formal essay.	40%
Two critical responses and online participation.	10% each
Final exam	30%

Note: All assignments must be completed to pass the course. All assignments submitted electronically.

The critical responses are short, focused pieces (3-4 pages) designed to stimulate critical thinking on the texts. Response topics will be assigned early in the course. Students may select any two that they find interesting. Each week a set of discussion questions will be posted and students will be able to respond to these and other students’ remarks. (In a most respectful manner) Students will be able to raise questions that interest them for further discussion and clarification. (note special instructions on the announcement page) You will be required to write one formal research essay (3500-4000 words). Essay topics will be assigned early in the course. Students may select a topic of their own but must first clear the topic with the instructor before beginning. The topics will allow you to demonstrate both your understanding of the works and your capacity to develop your own critical position in the essay topics. These essays make use both of your own reading of the texts and of your reading of the secondary literature on the topic. The final exam will be in the essay format.

Text: Cahn, Steven. Political Philosophy, The Essential Texts. (2nd. Ed.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

See the announcement page for reference to the Augustine and MacIntyre readings.

Readings: Note: students should also read the introduction to each writer.

- Week 1 Plato: *Crito*, pp 22-30; *The Republic*, pp 31-149.
- Week 2 Aristotle: *The Politics*, pp 175-224.
- Week 3 Augustine: from *Political Writings*, Hackett, Book XV-XIX and Letters, pp 213-229 & pp 250-253. Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae*, pp 241-252
- Week 4 Machiavelli: *The Prince*, pp 256-270; *The Discourses*, pp 270-281.
- Week 5 Hobbes: *Leviathan*, pp 285-310.
- Week 6 Locke: *Second Treaties on Government*, pp 315-342.
- Week 7 Rousseau: *The Origins of Inequality*, pp 355-370; *The Social Contract*, pp 370-398.
- Week 8 Smith: *The Wealth of Nations*, pp 452-467. Mills: *On Liberty*, pp 438-472.
- Week 9 Marx & Engels: *1844 Manuscripts*, pp 410-417; *The German Ideology*, pp 417-423; *The Communist Manifesto*, pp 423-435.
- Week 10 Rawls: *A Theory of Justice*, pp 477-492. Nozick: *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, pp 495-507.
- Week 11 Taylor: *Atomism*, pp 729-743. MacIntyre: From *On Virtue*, Notre Dame Press, Ch. 17.
- Week 12 Foucault: *Power/Knowledge*, pp 747-760; Habermas: *Three Normative Models of Democracy*, pp 764-771; *On The Internal Relation Between the Rule of Law and Democracy*, pp 772-777; Held: *Non-contractual Society: A Feminist View*, pp 782-795.

Critical Response Topics: (TBA)

Late penalty for all responses – 3% per day. No responses will be accepted 5 days past due date. Due dates; First – May 20; Second – June 10; by 11:59 PM.

Essay Topics: (TBA)

Penalties as above. Due July 8th. The essay must be submitted to Turnitin. (turnitin.com) Class ID, 3970789; Password, poliphil

A Note on Papers All written work must have a title page. Papers should be submitted as an attachment through webct. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style for footnotes/endnotes. All internet sources must be properly cited and be capable of being reproduced in hard copy if requested. Wikipedia is not an acceptable scholarly source.

Note: All assignments will be gladly accepted anytime before the due dates!

**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 political science 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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.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.

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

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> 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.

Plagiarism

"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/handbook/>

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.