

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science

Introduction to Political Theory POL 2237E/ Section 1

Term 1 Course Outline
2010-2011

Class Time/Location: Th, 10:30 AM-12:20 PM
University College, Room 224

Prerequisite: Politics 020E

Anti-requisites: Philosophy 237E, 235F/G, 236F/g; the former Philosophy 137E; the former Political Science 147E.

Course instructors: Professor Biswas Mellamphy (Term 1)
Professor Long (Term 2)

Contact Hours:

Term 1/ Dr. Biswas Mellamphy:
Mon: 1:30-2:20 PM and Th: 12:30-12:20 PM, or by appointment
Social Science Centre, Room 4095
nbiswasm@uwo.ca

Teaching

Assistants: Michael Laurence mlauren3@uwo.ca
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Course Description:

This course is an exploration of some of the dominant forms of political *organization*, *association* and *identity* that human beings have created in the historical traditions of *western civilization*. It is, as such, also a story about the historical *forms of domination* that have enabled the collective organizing of political and social life to either develop and expand, or wither and die away.

Term I is dedicated to exploring the ancient historical roots of western political ideas, focusing on the birth of political thought as it is presented in some of the major historical,

dramatic and political texts of ancient Greece (but also touching on ancient Rome and Renaissance Europe). Some of the political thinkers we will investigate include Aeschylus, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Thucydides, Protagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero and Machiavelli.

Among the issues we will explore are:

- war and peace and the moral dilemmas attending them
- the dilemmas and challenges of leadership and rulership
- the origins and definitions of democracy, monarchy, aristocracy and tyranny
- the different, often conflicting functions, between the domestic (family) and political spheres of life (state)
- the extent of an individual's obligation to obey the law of the state
- the influence of gender on political concepts

General Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be expected to be able to:

- *Define, compare and interpret* the relevant political arguments and conceptual/thematic framework presented by each political thinker covered in the course materials.
- *Create, criticize, defend and communicate* strong arguments both orally and in written form.
- *Be Self-Reflective*: You should be able to continuously *reflect* and *(re)assess* the assumptions underlying your own positions and interpretations.

Course Texts:

The following books are available at the Bookstore:

- Peter J. Steinberger, *Readings in Classical Political Thought* (Hackett Publishing: 2000).
REQUIRED
- Thomas Cahill, *Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter* (Anchor Books: 2004).
RECOMMENDED

Other Required Course Material: As indicated by the Weekly Reading Schedule below, articles may be assigned to accompany your reading of the primary texts. All articles not found in the required textbooks will be available on the course website (OWL).

2. COURSE PHILOSOPHY, MECHANICS AND POLICIES:

Empower yourself:

This course is focused on “**inquiry-based learning**” which presupposes that ‘all learning begins with the learner’. The course presupposes that YOU will take a *proactive* involvement in your own learning: this includes consulting online and print sources for further information on a

topic, or consulting your TA or your Professor whenever you need help or have a relevant question.

How to Succeed in this Course:

The course is structured around the interaction of **lectures, tutorials, and assignments**. Before each lecture, you must do your assigned homework which will consist of doing the required readings and creating your own detailed notes. Keeping up with these three components will determine your success in this course. For example, if you come to lecture without doing the homework, or attend tutorial having missed the lecture, you are already at a disadvantage and you will fall behind.

Rule of thumb? Keep up: the more you keep up in and outside of class time, the more you will succeed in this course. If you are having trouble keeping up due to unforeseen circumstances, consult with your instructor or TA immediately.

Course Website (OWL site, formerly known as WebCT):

All the course administration, including required readings, announcements, style guides (bibliographical and referencing templates), detailed explanation of assignments and evaluation and other extra materials will be found on the course website. Everything having to do with each component of the course will be available on the course website.

Website Policy:

Problems with accessibility to the course website cannot be used as a basis for missing deadlines or appealing your grades. This means that if you are having problems accessing the course website, **you must notify your instructor as soon as possible** and you will be directed to a computer technician.

Computer, Cell-phone and Other Gadgets Policy:

- You may use your computers to take notes during lectures, but the instructor and TAs reserve the right to ensure that you are not text-messaging, surfing the internet, or distracting other students. The instructor and TAs reserve the right to do spot-checks during class time.
- No digital taping (either voice or image) of the lectures is allowed.
- All cellphones (and similar technologies) must be turned off, silent or on 'vibration' mode during the duration of the class and during tutorials.
- **No computers/laptops/netbooks (and similar technologies) will be allowed during tutorials**, unless permitted by the TA. Tutorials are designed to promote active engagement and participation.

Tutorials:

The tutorials are an integral component of the course. Tutorial mark consists of **attendance** and **participation**. If you don't attend the tutorial, you can't participate! If you attend the tutorial, but do not speak, or do not contribute in a significant way, or do not engage in tutorial activities in a way deemed significant by your TA, this will be reflected in the 'participation' portion of your tutorial mark. For more information, consult your TA.

Western Medical Accommodation Policy (Medical Notes):

In May, 2008, The University of Western Ontario's Senate approved a new medical note policy, which affects all students. Please follow the procedures as set out by the University and see your Academic Counseling office to present your case and documentation before asking me for an extension without penalty. I cannot waive any penalties without a recommendation from the Academic Counseling Office. For more detailed information and forms, please visit: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>, and for further policy information, see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Special Needs: If you are a student with special needs, please consult your instructor as soon as possible. Visit Western's *Student Development Centre* (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>) to access the resources available to you.

3. ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES AND POLICIES:

Please consider these deadlines 'sacred'! Only in cases in which the student has presented appropriate documentation to their Academic Counseling Officer will any extensions without penalty be considered (see above).

1 Long Essay:15% (6-8 pages each, details TBA)	Due December 1, 2011
2 In-class tests (format: long answer questions): 5% each (details TBA)	October 20, 2011; November 10, 2011
2 In-Tutorial Pop Quizzes: 5% each	Surprise!
Tutorial Attendance/Participation: 10% (5% attendance; 5% Participation)	
THERE IS NO SCHEDULED MIDTERM EXAM FOR THIS CLASS	

Essay Submission Policy:

The final essay must be printed and submitted through TURNITIN (clear instructions will be given regarding the submission process). **The penalty for late papers begins at 4pm on the due**

date. Papers submitted after this time will be subject to the late penalty (unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor).

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her assignment has been officially received (for example, if you slip your paper under my door without notifying me, I am not responsible for a 'lost' paper and this cannot be used as a grounds for appeal).

To repeat: Final Essays must be submitted through TURNITIN.

Late Assignment Policy:

Late essay submissions will be subject to a penalty deduction of 5% a day (from the due date immediately after the lecture is over until the day that the assignment is received by the instructor, including weekends and holidays). This may appear to be an unnecessarily harsh penalty, but the rationale is to promote the timely submission of work, which is the cornerstone of any future career that you may have. Also, the assignment deadline dates have been carefully chosen so that ample time is given to evaluating your work and suggesting improvements to work submitted.

Missed Test and Pop-Quiz Policy: There will be no re-writes for in-class tests; replacement assignment is an essay (essay question and length to be determined by the instructor; must be submitted through TURNITIN).

There will be no re-writes or replacement assignments for pop-quizzes. If you miss your tutorial, you might miss a pop-quiz! You can't replace the mark, so try not to miss tutorials.

Re-grading policy: Disputes regarding grades on assignments must follow the following strict procedure and should be taken up with your Teaching Assistant.

Procedure:

a) You must wait **one week** after you've received your work back. Do not approach your TA prior to this period regarding re-grading your assignment. During this period, go over the comments given to your work.

b) **After at least one week but within 3 weeks of receiving your work back**, book a consultation meeting with your TA and go over their document in detail.

c) If you still want to dispute the mark, you must write a minimum 2 paragraph document in which you clearly explain where you think points were taken off unnecessarily. Your TA will take your points into consideration, re-grade your work and provide comments (with specific reference to the points you provided). Please note that in this process, your grade may stay the same, or be raised, or be lowered.

d) If you still want to dispute the mark, you must book an appointment with the course instructor to discuss the issue.

4. GRADING RUBRIC FOR ESSAYS AND ESSAY STYLE QUESTIONS:

Quality of work submitted will be evaluated on the degree of success in the following categories:

- **THESIS STATEMENT** (including originality and clarity of interpretation)
- **ARGUMENT** (organization of ideas, content and use of course materials, logical development of ideas, analysis, synthesis, accuracy of interpretation)
- **EVIDENCE** (quality and use of sources and textual support, accurate and appropriate use of quotes, explanation of quotes used)
- **ESSAY FORM** (introduction, body, conclusion, references and citations, bibliography)
- **TECHNIQUE** (credibility of authorial voice, grammar, style, spelling)

Grades will be assigned based on the following rubric:

- **Exceptional:** Went beyond expectation in all categories; went beyond course material -- above 86
- **Strong:** Displayed high level of capability in all categories, but did not go beyond the obvious and did not exceed all conceivable expectations- 80-85
- **Strong/Average:** Displayed high level of capability in some categories but not all; did not go beyond the obvious - 76-79
- **Average:** Displayed average (good) level of capability overall, with some strengths and some weaknesses - 70-75
- **Average/Weak:** Displayed average capability in some categories, but no particular strengths: 66-69
- **Average/Weaker:** Displayed average capability in some categories and some underaverage levels of capability: 60-65
- **Weak:** Displayed an underaverage level of capability overall - below 60.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: “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/choloff.pdf>.” The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic format for plagiarism checking. (UWO Senate 2002-03).”

**This course requires you to use TURN IT IN when submitting typed essays.
Penalties for cheating may include expulsion from the course or from the university.
DO NOT CHEAT OR PLAGIARIZE!
It is not worth it.**

Weekly Reading Schedule: TBD

**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/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.