

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science

Introduction to Political Theory

POL 2237E/ Section 001

Professor Biswas Mellamphy (Term 2)

Course Outline

2013-2014

Class Time/Location: Tu/ Th, 12:30 PM-1:20 PM

UCC 146

Prerequisite: Politics 020E

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

Contact Hours:

Tu/Th 1:30-2:20 PM, or by appointment

Social Science Centre, Room 4095

nbiswasm@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This course explores some central themes in the history of western political thought, including and especially the nature, forms and functions of *power* and the corresponding notions of *persuasion* and *manipulation* (or *control*) that these entail. Beginning with the transition from medieval kingship to modern statecraft in the 17th century and the emergence of the surveillance state and of societies of control in the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, we will examine four major modes or models of power: *sovereign power* (the power that operates in and through law and rights); *disciplinary power* (the coercive/penal/police power); *biopower* (the labour/biological power of populations); and *neuropower* (the powers of cognitive manipulation mediated by technology as practiced in contemporary marketing, or as political philosopher Maurizio Lazzarato says, “the brain’s power to affect and become affected”).

The first part of the course focuses on three political theorists of the Social Contract: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, culminating in Immanuel Kant’s theory of state sovereignty within the context of an international system of states. The second part focuses on the development of the surveillance state in Jeremy Bentham’s prison design of the ‘pan-opticon’, and Friedrich Nietzsche’s theory of punitive power. The third part centers on Karl Marx’s critique of liberal political economy and its exploitation of proletarian labour, as well as some other contemporary political critics such as Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault and Edward Said. The final section focusing on essays by Gilles Deleuze, Bernard Stiegler, and

Maurizio Lazzarato will concentrate on a new form of power that is emerging today as a result of technical innovations in the neurosciences which are showing the extent to which political control can increasingly be effected directly by cognitive manipulation (rather than more costly forms of biological or material intervention and exploitation).

Learning Outcomes:

Through careful reading of texts and the analysis of arguments and evidence, students will develop the skills necessary for critical thinking, as well as coherent and reflective communication and honest and open inquiry. By the end of this course, students will be expected to be able to:

- *Define, interpret and compare* 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.
- *Revise and reappraise* your interpretations and views in light of new and different perspectives.

Course Text:

- Steven M. Cahn (ed.), *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts* (Oxford University Press: 2010) – same textbook as in Term 1.

Other Required Course Material: As indicated by the Weekly Reading Schedule below, articles not found in the Cahn textbook will also be assigned and made available to you 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):

All the course administration, including required readings, announcements, 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.

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 will require you to use TURN IT IN. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask your instructor or TAs.

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 essay worth 15% (6-8pages); topics TBA	Due February 11, 2014
1 essay worth 15% (6-8 pages); topics TBA	Due March 20, 2014
In-tutorial test worth 5% on class materials from March 25-April 1, 2014.	Will be administered in your tutorial during the last week of classes.
Tutorial Attendance: 5% Participation: 10%	Same as Term 1
THERE IS NO SCHEDULED FINAL 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.

Re-grading policy: Disputes regarding grades on assignments must follow the following strict procedure and should be taken up with your Teaching Assistant. Although you may not like your mark, your TA spends a lot of time marking your work and giving you feedback, so please follow this 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, carefully go over the comments given by your TA.

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. Please note that once your work comes back to me, I reserve the right to either raise, lower or keep the grade as assigned by your TA.

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.

Weekly Reading Schedule (subject to modification)

*Can be found on OWL/course website

Date	Readings	Lecture Theme
1. Jan. 7	Explanation of course themes, outline and policies	<i>Power, Politics, & Persuasion: Introduction to Themes in Modern Political Thought</i>
2. Jan. 9	*Thomas Lemke, "Foucault's Hypothesis", p. 31-33. *D. Van Belle, "Political Ideologies".	<i>Introduction to Four Regimes of Power and Political Ideologies (Classical Liberalism and Classical Conservatism)</i>
3. Jan. 14	*Michel Foucault, "Truth and Juridical Forms", p. 32-52	<i>Power I: Sovereign Power From the King to the State</i>
4. Jan. 16	Cahn, Introduction to Thomas Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i>	<i>Hobbes' Social Contract: Leviathan</i>
5. Jan. 21	Cahn, Introduction to Thomas Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i>	<i>Hobbes' Social Contract: Leviathan</i>
6. Jan. 23	Cahn, Introduction to John Locke's <i>Second Treatise on Government</i>	<i>Locke's Social Contract: The Second Treatise on Government</i>
7. Jan. 28	Cahn, Introduction to John Locke's <i>Second Treatise on Government</i>	<i>Locke's Social Contract: The Second Treatise on Government</i>
8. Jan. 30	Cahn, Introduction to Jean-Jacques Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i>	<i>Rousseau's Social Contract</i>
9. Feb. 4	Cahn, Introduction to Jean-Jacques Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i>	<i>Rousseau's Social Contract</i>
10. Feb. 6	Cahn, Introduction to Immanuel Kant's <i>Perpetual Peace</i>	<i>Kant's Perpetual Peace</i>
11. Feb. 11	*Michel Foucault, "Truth and Juridical Forms", p. 52-72.	<i>Power II: Disciplinary Power and the Penal State</i> <u>Essay due today</u>
12. Feb. 13	*Michel Foucault, "Truth and Juridical Forms", p. 70-87.	<i>Panopticism and the Emergence of the Surveillance State</i>
13. Feb. 18	Reading Week	NO CLASS
14. Feb. 20	Reading Week	NO CLASS
15. Feb. 25	*Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> , essay 2.	<i>On Punishment: Friedrich Nietzsche's Genealogy of Morals</i>
16. Feb. 27	*Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> , essay 2.	<i>On Punishment: Friedrich Nietzsche's Genealogy of Morals</i>
17. Mar 4	*Hannah Arendt, "Power and the Space of Appearance" and "On the Nature of Totalitarianism".	<i>Power vs. Terror: Hannah Arendt and the Origins of Totalitarianism</i>
18. Mar 6	Cahn, Marx's Preface to Political Economy	<i>Power III: Biopower as Labour</i>

	and German Ideology	<i>Power in Karl Marx</i>
19. Mar 11	Cahn, Marx's Preface to Political Economy and German Ideology	<i>Power III: Biopower as Labour Power in Karl Marx</i>
20. Mar 13	Cahn, Held's "Non-Contractual Society" *Simone de Beauvoir, "The Second Sex".	<i>The Critique of Sovereign Power: Introduction to Feminist Thinking</i>
21. Mar 20	NO CLASS/TUTORIALS STILL IN SESSION	NO CLASS <u>Essay due today</u>
22. Mar 25	Cahn, Foucault "Power/Knowledge".*Edward Said, "Orientalism".	<i>Race, Imperialism and the Construction of Knowledge</i>
23. Mar 27	*Gilles Deleuze, "Postscript to Societies of Control".	<i>Power IV: Introduction to Societies of Control</i>
24. Apr 1	*Maurizio Lazzarato, "Life and the Living in the Societies of Control,"	<i>Neuropower in the 21st Century</i>
25. Apr 3	Last class	<i>The Future of Persuasion and Manipulation: Bernard Stiegler's analysis of Neuropower</i>

**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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

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.