

Saint Mary's University
Department of Political Science
POLI 2335.0
Fall/Winter 2011-12

HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

Instructor: Dr. S. Gaon
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Class Time: T/Th.11:30 am - 12:45 pm.
Class Location: Loyola, Rm 274

Office hours:

Tues & Weds. 3:00 - 6:00 pm (OR BY APPOINTMENT)

Course Description and Objective

This full-year, 2000-level core course provides a survey of Western political philosophy from the classical period of Athens up to the 19th century. Through close readings of selected, primary texts, students will become familiar with major figures of the political theory canon. Through this process, students will gain the ability to read and engage with political philosophy. The objective of the course is therefore two-fold: to introduce political science students to the sub-field of political thought within the discipline of political science, and to increase students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Required Material (available at University Bookstore):

- *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy, Second Edition*, edited by Steven Cahn (Oxford University Press, 2002). Available at the University Bookstore.
- Selected Reading pack. Available at the University Bookstore.

Suggested Essay Style Guide:

- Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources. A Guide for Students* (Hackett Books, 1998).

Format, Assignments and Grading

The class meets twice a week, and consists of lectures by the instructor, in-class discussions and group work. To ensure that our classes are as productive as possible for all participants, students are expected to attend regularly and to be fully prepared to discuss the required readings.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE HOW TO DOCUMENT YOUR WORK, OR IF AT ANY POINT YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL ABOUT LECTURES, ISSUES DISCUSSED IN CLASS, OR ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS, PLEASE DO CONSULT WITH ME – AFTER CLASS, BY PHONE, BY EMAIL OR DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS. I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO RESPOND PROMPTLY TO YOUR CONCERNS.

Numeric grades will be converted to letter grades as per the academic regulations (2011-12 *Academic Calendar*), and will be calculated as follows:

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| • 4 reading digests due per term (5% each, best 3/4 per term) | 30% |
| • December, mid-term quiz | 15% |
| • Major term paper (second term) | 25% |
| • Final exam | 20% |
| • Participation & Preparedness | 10% |

Reading Digests: Short (300-500 word) digests of a selected reading are due in class on designated dates throughout the year (see course outline). Assignments will be distributed in class. Digests are brief summaries, or “abstracts” of the material. The best 3 out of 4 digests you submit each term are worth up to 5% each of the final grade. In other words, 30% of your final grade (15% per term) will be based on 6 of these assignments over the year. Options for selections of material to be ‘digested,’ along with detailed instructions, will be provided in class.

You are permitted to submit *more* than 8 digests if you wish, provided you complete the assigned ones – the final grade will still be based on your best six submissions each term. This assignment is intended to encourage you to keep up with the reading, to take notes on what you read, and to help you to develop excellent reading comprehension skills.

December (mid-year) Quiz: An in-class quiz worth 15% of the final grade will be administered in class on Tuesday November 29th. Students will be responsible for all material covered during the first term. The purpose of this assignment is to ensure you have a reasonable familiarity with all of the material covered by mid-year.

Term paper: Essay topics based on course readings will be distributed in class well ahead of the due date during the second term. The required length is 1750 - 2000 words (approximately 6-8 pages). Essays must be typed and double-spaced. This assignment is intended to increase your critical reading and argumentative writing skills.

Assignments that lack adequate documentation, and/or that stray unreasonably beyond the length requirements in either direction, will be penalized.

Handing in Assignments:

- ALL Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date.
- ALL assignments must include a COVER PAGE with your NAME, the COURSE SPECIFICATIONS, and an assignment TITLE (**NB.** “Essay #1” is *not* an adequate title). See the “Essay Proof-Reading Checklist” hand-out (to be provided with essay topics).
- ALL assignments must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, STAPLED, and in 12-POINT FONT with one inch MARGINS all around.
- Students are expected to follow a STYLE GUIDE consistently for all citations, references and footnotes or endnotes, and must provide a full bibliographical entry for every resource that has been used, including internet sources. (Either use the style guide suggested above, or consult an on-line style guide at:
<http://www.smu.ca/academic/writingcentre/resources.html#styles>
- Students are required to KEEP COPIES of all work. If your assignment is lost or misplaced, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy upon request.

Late Policy: Late essays & assignments will be *not* be accepted except in extreme and documented cases. Requests for extensions **must** be arranged in advance of the due date and must be accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Participation: Participation marks of up to 10% of the final grade will be assigned at the end of the year in recognition of your preparedness for class and your participation in discussion. Participation includes attendance. Students will prepare by bringing to each class one or two questions or observations about the assigned text, based on careful and complete readings of the material.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Fall 2011 Course Outline (readings & dates may be subject to change)

September 8: Introduction

September 13, 15: Strauss, "What Is Political Theory" (course pack) and the "Defence of Socrates" (pp. 5-22)

September 20, 22: The "Defence of Socrates" and the "Crito" (pp. 5-30)
Thursday Sept 22: Digest #1 due on Plato's Crito

September 27, 29: Plato, *Republic*, Books I-II (pp. 31-66)

October 4, 6: Plato, *Republic*, Books I-II & Books III-IV (pp.31-66, and 66-85)
Thursday October 6: Digest #2 due on Plato's Republic

October 11,13: Plato, *Republic*, Books VI-VII (pp. 109-133)

October 18, 20: Plato, *Republic*, Books VIII-IX (pp.133-168) & Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books 1-2 (pp. 173-186).

October 25, 27: (Tuesday): Aristotle's *Ethics*, Books 5, 6 & 8 (pp. 192-203; Bk 8 is in course pack). **Thursday October 27: Digest #3 due on Aristotle's Ethics**

November 1, 3: Aristotle, *The Politics*, Books 1-3, up to chapter 10 (pp. 213-236) and Book 7, chs. 1-3 (250-255). Chapters 7 & 13 of Book 1 and chapter 5 of Bk 3 are in the course pack.

November 8, 10: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedication (course pack) and chapters 1-8 (pp. 328-334; ch. 7 is in the course pack).

November 15, 17: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedication (course pack) and chapters 1-26 (pp. 328-349; chapter 7 is in course pack);
Tuesday Nov 15: Digest #4 due on Machiavelli's The Prince

November 22, 24: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, Books 1-2 (pp. 349-367) & review class

NOV. 29 (TUESDAY): IN-CLASS QUIZ

Winter 2012 Course Outline
(readings & dates may be subject to change)

January 5 (Thursday): Introduction to modernity; Hobbes, *Leviathan*, First Part (pp. 375-405, including ch.4, course pack).

January 10, 12: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, First Part (pp. 375-405, including ch.4, course pack).
Thursday January 12: Digest #5 on Hobbes due

January 17, 19: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, First Part (including chs. 4 & 16, course pack) and Second Part (pp. 405-430)

January 24, 26: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 16 (course pack) and Second Part (pp. 405-430); and Locke, *The Second Treatise* (pp. 450-517)
Thursday January 26: Digest #6 on Locke due

January 31, February 2: Locke, *The Second Treatise* (pp. 450-517)

February 7, 9: Rousseau, "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality" (pp. 546-561)
Thursday February 9: Digest #7 on Rousseau due

February 14, 16: Rousseau, "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality" (pp. 546-561)

February 20-25: READING WEEK (no classes)

February 28, March 1: Rousseau, "The Social Contract" (pp. 561-595)

March 6, 8: Kant, "Speculative Beginning of Human History" (course pack)
TUESDAY MARCH 6: TERM PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

March 13, 15: Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (pp. 862-869)

March 20, 22: Marx "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844"(pp. 862-869); *The Communist Manifesto*, Parts I & II (pp. 848-859)
Tuesday March 20: Digest #8 on Marx due

March 27, 29: Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, Parts I & II (pp. 878-889); review.

April 3: Final Review

Final Examination Format: The formal, two-hour exam will be based on all course material, and will be held during the official examination week, as scheduled by the university.

A NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility are the five pillars of academic integrity at Saint Mary's University. Any form of dishonesty, cheating, falsification or plagiarism is considered an extremely serious academic offence and will not be tolerated in this course. Students found to have committed an act of plagiarism or to have cheated will automatically and without consultation receive an 'F' and, upon final determination, a notification of plagiarism may be added to the student's official file by the Registrar's Office as per University regulations.

Reference to or appropriation of any other person's work, regardless of whether it is directly quoted or is merely paraphrased, must be acknowledged by proper citation. When in doubt, seek the advice of the instructor before submitting the work. Submission of the same piece of work for credit in more than one course is also not permitted. (Adapted from the Saint Mary's University, *Academic Calendar*, 2011-12, pp.21-22).

It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of what constitutes academic fraud and plagiarism according to the definitions of the University, and to understand the consequences such acts carry. If unsure, consult the instructor and also the *Academic Calendar*, Regulation 19, on "Academic Integrity."

MARKING SCHEME:			
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<i>Excellent</i>		<i>Satisfactory</i>	
A+	90-100	C+	67-69.9
A	85-89.9	C	63-66.9
A-	80-84.9	C-	60-62.9
<i>Good</i>		<i>Marginal</i>	
B+	77-79.9	D	50-59.9
B	73-76.9	<i>Fail</i>	
B-	70-72.9	F	00-49.9