Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

POL 200Y5Y Political Theory

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

Thursdays, 9-11 am
DV 2072 (Term 1) / IB 120 (Term 2)

Instructor:

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Course Description:

In this survey of ancient to early modern political thought, we will engage in close reading and analysis of some of the best-known texts in Western political thought, from Plato's *Apology* to John Locke's *Second Treatise of Government.* As we read, we will focus on both continuity and change in a millennia-long tradition of political thinking and writing. To do this, we will ask a series of questions: What is novel or innovative about each author's contributions to the study of politics? How does he build on ideas already in circulation? Can we understand these writers as joint participants in a long conversation about the character of political life, a conversation that we are still having today?

To bring some focus to our broad inquiry, we will concentrate primarily on the common concepts, questions and problems that unite our readings. To take a small sample: What is justice, and how is it best achieved politically? What role does equality play in social and political relationships? What does it mean to be free, and how can we preserve freedom? What kind of moral and political judgment does common life require, and what kind of knowledge? How should we understand and confront power politically? What roles do violence and faction play in politics? Is there a connection between political activity and a good and happy life for human beings?

This course is meant to encourage you to see each of these works as political and philosophically interesting in its own right and in its own time. But another major aim of this course is to propel you to judge for yourself which perspectives and arguments are persuasive or compelling to you *now*. This is particularly challenging when reading texts that are millennia old. To help you form these judgments, we will frequently return to a set of simple but hard questions: How are these thinkers like us? How are they *not* like us? Does their sameness or their difference make them more or less appealing to you, as a 21st-century reader with your own political views and experiences?

Required Texts

The following books are available at the UTM bookstore or can be borrowed from the library, where they are on reserve. You may also order them online, and we've included the publisher information to help you find the right edition. If you can't locate a copy of one of these, we encourage you to ask Dr. Nacol—she often has a spare copy to share.

- Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, ed. S. Everson (Cambridge UP).
- Cicero, *On Obligations*, trans. P.G. Walsh (Oxford World's Classics).
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. E. Curley (Hackett).
- John Locke, *Political Writings*, ed. D. Wootton (Hackett).
- Niccolo Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings*, ed. D. Wootton (Hackett).
- Plato, *Republic,* ed. C.D.C. Reeve (Hackett).
- Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates,* trans. G.M.A. Grube (Hackett).

Additional readings (marked by an '*') for the course are posted on our class Blackboard site.

Note: There are many editions of these texts. We'd like for you to acquire and use *these* editions, since class discussion will run much more smoothly if we are all using the same translations of the texts with the same pagination.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

This course is a combination of lecture and tutorial. For each Thursday morning meeting, Dr. Nacol will spend much of the time lecturing, but there may also be individual and small group activities and class discussion. Please come to lecture with your texts and notes in hand, and please read the assigned texts *in advance of lecture*.

The course has five graded components:

- Tutorial Attendance and Participation: 15%
- First Essay: 15%
- Term test: 15%
- Second Essay: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

To pass this course, you must pass each component of the course. For example, someone who writes both essays but does not attend tutorial regularly will receive a failing grade for class participation and will subsequently fail the course. Likewise, someone who is an excellent contributor in tutorial but skips the final exam will fail the course. While passing each assignment is the minimum requirement for passing the course, our goal is for you to do well in every aspect of the course.

Tutorial Attendance and Participation:

In lecture, Dr. Nacol will provide the historical context for each text, help distill the main arguments of the materials, highlight some of the most important /or tricky passages in the readings, and generate questions for further consideration. Lecture attendance is crucial for your success in the course, as we will cover material that you may be asked to know for your term test or final exam. Lecture notes will not be posted online.

Tutorial will be the setting in which you, your TA, and your peers can discuss the readings in greater depth and detail. Since this is the case, tutorial attendance is *mandatory*. To prepare for each session, you should have done the reading and come prepared with questions or comments to discuss. Your tutorial participation grade will rest on four factors: (1) attendance; (2) preparation—bring your readings and notes to every meeting; (3) quality of contributions to the discussion; and (4) respectful listening to and engagement with your peers.

Essays:

You will be required to write two essays this year. The first, due in the fall term, will be an essay of 5-7 pages on a topic you will choose from a list of options circulated well before the due date. The second, due in the spring term, will be an essay of 8-10 pages; it will ask you to compare one ancient and one modern thinker on a question that you will choose from a list of pre-circulated essay topics.

These are not meant to be research papers. Our strong preference is that you use only the materials we assign for the course to write your essays. The purpose of these essay assignments is for you to critically analyze and engage the texts we are reading together as part of your own reflections on a political question or problem. This is an opportunity for you to articulate and support your own ideas using our course readings.

Regarding late papers, we will deduct 5% from your final grade for each day the paper is late. We strongly encourage you to begin these assignments as early as you can, and to meet with Dr. Nacol /or your TA to discuss your ideas and argumentative strategies. To help you do your best work, we will circulate a guide to writing political theory essays, a marking rubric, and a style/citation guide with the first essay assignment.

Test and Exam:

There will be an in-class term test during the last lecture meeting of the fall term. The test may include passage identification questions, short-answer questions, and a long essay question. Dr. Nacol will circulate a review sheet in advance of the term test.

Note: Students who miss this term test will be assigned a mark of zero for that test unless they are granted special consideration. If the term test was missed for reasons entirely beyond the student's control, a written request for special consideration may be submitted to the instructor within one week of the missed test. This request must explain the reason for missing the test and include appropriate documentation (e.g. Verification of Student Illness or Injury form).

A student whose explanation is accepted by the instructor may be granted a makeup test or a redistribution of weighting of other graded work. If the course has no other term work as part of the evaluation, a makeup test will be given. In no case may the weighting of the final examination in a 100-level course be increased beyond two-thirds of the total course work.

If the student is granted permission to take a makeup text and misses it, then he or she is assigned a mark of zero for the test unless the instructor is satisfied that missing the makeup test was unavoidable. Students are not automatically entitled to a second makeup test.

There will also be a cumulative final exam during the April exam period. The exam will include passage identification questions, concept identification questions, short-answer questions, and a long essay question. Dr. Nacol will again circulate a review sheet in advance of the exam to help you organize your thinking and studying.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is unacceptable, and we report all suspected cases via the process outlined on the last page of this course outline. If you are not sure whether something counts as plagiarism, please don't hesitate to ask your TA /or Dr. Nacol. We are always here to answer these types of questions.

Student Resources and Support

Your success in this course is important to us. Here are some resources we hope you will use if ever you need them:

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach Dr. Nacol /or the AccessAbility Resource Centre as soon as possible.

AccessAbility staff (Located in Rm 2047, South Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please call 905-569-4600 or email access.utm@utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know what you need, the sooner we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Notice of Collection:

The University of Toronto respects your privacy. The information on medication certificates is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering accommodations for academic purposes based on medical grounds. The department will maintain a record of all medical certificates received. At all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If you have questions, please refer to www.utoronto.ca/privacy or contact the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Office at 416-946-5835. Address: Room 201, McMurrich Bldg., 12 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON M5S 1A1.

Student Resources and Support

UTM also provides to support students through the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of their resources: http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments/Lecture Topics

September 7:	What is Political Theory?

Justice and the Rule of Law: Sophocles, Aeschylus and Plato

September 14:	* Sophocles, "Antigone," in *Antigone, Oedipus the King, and Electra*, ed. E. Hall (Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2009), pp. 1-45.
September 21:	* Aeschylus, "The Eumenides," in *The Oresteia*, trans. R. Fagles (New York: Penguin, 1975), pp. 231-277.
September 28:	Plato, "Apology," in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 21-42. Plato, "Crito," in *The Trial and Death of Socrates,* pp. 43-54.

What is Justice? Plato on the City and the Soul

October 5:	Plato, *Republic*, Books I-II, pp. 1-65.
October 12:	Reading week. No class meeting.
October 19:	Plato, *Republic*, Book III (lines 412b-417b), Book IV (lines 419a-423e, 427d-445e), and Book V, pp. 96-102, 103-108, 112-134, and 136-175. **First essay topics distributed.**
October 26:	Plato *Republic*, Books VI-VII, pp. 176-237.
November 2:	Plato, *Republic*, Books VIII-IX, pp. 238-296. * "Pericles' Funeral Oration," in Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, ed. S. Lattimore (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998), pp. 91-97.

A Unity of the Different: Justice, Equality, and Citizenship in Aristotle's Political Thought

November 9:	* Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, eds. S. Broadie and C. Rowe (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2002), Book I.1-10, pp. 95-107. Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, Book I and Book II.1-5, pp. 11-39. **Review materials for term test distributed.**
November 16:	* Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, eds. S. Broadie and C. Rowe (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2002), Book V.1-6, pp. 158-168. Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, Books III and VII, pp. 61-91, 166-194. **Essay one due in hard copy in your tutorials.**
November 23:	Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, Books IV.1-12 and V.1-8, pp. 91-110, 119-137.

November 30: In-class term test.

Enjoy your break!

Cicero on Virtue, Public Life, and the Problem of Dilemmas

January 4: Cicero, *On Obligations.*

"Mirrors for Princes": Seneca and Aquinas on How to Rule Well

January 11: * Seneca, "On Mercy," in *Moral and Political Essays,* eds. J.M. Cooper and J.F. Procope (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995), pp. 128-164.

January 18: * Thomas Aquinas, "On Kingship," in *Political Writings*, ed. R.W. Dyson (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006), pp. 5-52.

Machiavelli: The First Modern Political Thinker?

January 25: Machiavelli, "The Prince," Letter Dedicatory and ch. 1-14, in *Selected Political Writings*, pp. 5-47.

February 1: Machiavelli, "The Prince," ch. 15-26, in *Selected Political Writings*, pp. 47-80.

February 8: Machiavelli, "The Discourses," Dedication; Book I: Preface, 1-6, 11-12, 16-18, 55, 58; Book II: 2; and Book III: 1, 3, 7-9, in *Selected Political Writings*, pp. 81-101, 113-119, 121-129, 150-158, 165-171, 189-200.

Hobbes' *Leviathan* and a New Science of Statecraft

February 15: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Epistle Dedicatory, Introduction, ch. 1-7, 10-11, and 13, pp. 1-37, 50-63, and 74-78. **(Please concentrate closely on ch. 13.)**

February 22: Reading week. No class meeting.

March 1: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 14-21, pp. 79-145. **(Please concentrate closely on ch. 17 and 21.)**

March 8: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 26-32, ch. 42.1-31 and 67-80, ch. 43, and Review and Conclusion, pp. 172-250, 333-349, 366-373, 397-410, 489-497.

Second essay topics distributed.

Locke on Law, Judgment, and Revolution

March 15: Locke, "Letter Concerning Toleration," in *Political Writings*, pp. 390-435.

March 22:	Locke, "Second Treatise of Government," ch. 1-9, in *Political Writings*, pp. 261-327.
March 29:	Locke, "Second Treatise of Government," ch. 10-19, in *Political Writings*, pp. 327-387.
	Second essay due in hard copy in tutorial.
April 9-23	Exam period. Date of our final exam TBD.

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university. What the university calls "plagiarism", non-university institutions might call "fraud".

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chair; in most cases, the Chair passes the case on to the Dean.

A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. Penalties are assigned by the Chair, by the Dean or by the University of Toronto Tribunal.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.

1. **Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.**
2. **Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author.** Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!
3. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
4. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

Ignorance of the rules against plagiarism is not a defense; students are presumed to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Students are especially reminded that material taken from the web **must** be quoted and cited in the same manner as if it came from a book or printed article.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member or teaching assistant than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties can be **severe**, ranging from a mark of "0" for the assignment or test in question, **up to and including expulsion from the university**.

Some website listed below on avoiding plagiarism:
'How to Use Sources and Avoid Plagiarism' - available at:
http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize
Other Advisory Material available at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/home