COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a 3 credit required course for political science, during which we will be exploring some of the most influential thinkers in western political thought. The purpose of this introductory class is to familiarize students with central concepts in political theory, including justice, virtue, liberty, equality, the state of nature, and the social contract. We will cover the basic themes and ideas in this class in a historical context, with key figures in the western history of social and political thought, including Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx. It is hoped that in the process of learning social and political theory from different eras, students will also learn how to think about their relevance to our own socio-political situation.

The course is based on the reading of (edited) primary texts from the textbook assigned for the class (edited by Steven Cahn), with an introduction on each key thinker. The course is lecture-based for the first two hours, with discussion intervals and questions, followed by an hour of seminar. It is expect that students will discuss their views, arguments and understanding of the material assigned for the week; therefore, it is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT for the students to DO THE WEEKLY ASSIGNED READINGS. Lectures are based on this assumption.

Prerequisites: POL S 101 or consent of Department of Political Science
Students without the course prerequisite should speak with the instructor before registering. At the request of an instructor, the Department may cancel your registration if you do not have the required course prerequisites. Policy about course outlines, grading and related matters can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

COURSE GOALS:

The aim of the course is to familiarize the students with the key thinkers and ideas in western political thought, to understand its different themes, and to appreciate
the diversity of views on the themes and issues the class will tackle through the readings and discussions. By the end of the class, the student will gain skills in reading theoretical works, in critical thinking and analysis, and in applying course themes to our contemporary world situation. The class is also designed to help students improve public speaking skills (in terms of presenting your ideas and arguments coherently in a discussion), and writing skills through essay assignments. The instructor will hold at least one writing seminar sessions aimed to present the students with techniques and tips on improving their writing skills. In addition, students are always encouraged to see the instructor from the beginning of the term if they think they have public speaking difficulties, and I will provide them with more personalized tips on improving their performance.

**COURSE TEXTS:**

The following textbook is required for this course. You can purchase it from the University of Alberta Bookstore:


**REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

The course requirements are outlined below. Students should note that in all but exceptional situations, all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar. Tests and assignments will be assigned a letter grade. The instructor will not ‘curve’ or adjust final grades according to any pre-set formula. Evaluation of the following course requirements will determine students’ grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home Midterm:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home Final:</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Presentations:* Each student will present on one of the assigned readings. Students will be able to sign-up for a reading from a list on the first day of class. The presentation is not a summary of the reading, but should be based on a critical engagement with the texts and authors. Presentations should also include discussion questions that will in turn form the basis of class discussion. As such, these questions should be well thought-out and the student should be prepared to lead some of the class discussion on his/her topic. The length of the presentation should not exceed 15 minutes (aim for 12-15 minutes) and should be accompanied by a 1-page written summary of the presentation’s analysis (submitted to the instructor). Presentation dates will be assigned in class. This project is worth 20% of your grade.
Participation: Participation in class discussion is extremely important. Please be prepared to express your views on the readings, lectures, and class discussions. You will be graded on your attendance and the quality of your participation in class. This will count towards 20% of your grade and will be assessed weekly (exceptional (A), very good (B), satisfactory (C), or unsatisfactory (D)).

Take-home Midterm Assignment: In lieu of an essay and a midterm examination, you will be given a take-home midterm assignment which will incorporate both of these elements. It will require you to write two small essays (3-5 pages each) on thinkers and theories discussed in the first half of the course (up to and including Locke). It will be worth 30% of your grade and must be submitted to the political science office (10-4, Tory Building) by 12pm, three days after receipt. This is an exam; late or digital submissions will be assessed a grade of ‘zero’.

Final Exam: The Final exam will also be in a take-home format, and will be based on short answers and essays. Some choice will be given, and the content will cover the full course with emphasis given to material covered after the midterm. It will be worth 30% of your final grade and must be submitted to the political science office (10-4, Tory Building) by 12pm, three days after receipt. This is an exam; late or digital submissions will be assessed a grade of ‘zero’.

GRADING SCHEME:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUDIO or VIDEO RECORDING of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.
LATE PENALTIES, PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Late assignments: It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reason for being late does not also explain this lack of communication, then you should be prepared to be penalized 5% per day.

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/gfcpolicymanual/content.cfm?ID_page=37633) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. An important excerpt from the Code of Student Behaviour is appended at the end of this syllabus. Additional information and resources are available through the UofA’s Truth in Education project: http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT & DISABILITY SERVICES:

Students with disabilities or special needs that might interfere with their performance should contact the professor at the beginning of the course with the appropriate documentation. Every effort will be made to accommodate such students, but in all cases prior arrangements must be made to ensure that any special needs can be met in a timely fashion and in such a way that the rest of the class is not put at an unfair disadvantage. Students requiring special support or services should be registered with the office of Specialized Support & Disability Services (SSDS): http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/SSDS/. This is particularly important for students requiring special exam arrangements. Once you have registered with SSDS, it is your responsibility to provide the instructor with a "Letter of Introduction" and, if necessary, an "Exam Instruction & Authorization" form.

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?):

The Student Distress Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
- Drop in: 030-N in the S.U.B.
- Visit: www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc
- Chat: http://www.campuscrisischat.com/
Excerpts from the *Code of Student Behaviour*
(updated effective APRIL, 2008)

**30.3.2(1) Plagiarism:** No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

**30.3.2(2) Cheating:**

30.3.2(2) a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2) b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6 (4).

30.3.2(2) c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2) d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2) e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) **Misrepresentation of Facts:** No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. See also 30.3.2(2) b, c, d and e.

30.3.6(5) **Participation in an Offence** : No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

**The Truth In Education (T*I*E) project** is a campus wide educational campaign on Academic Honesty. This program was created to let people know the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behaviour. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students.

Please take the time to visit the website at: [http://www.ualberta.ca/tie](http://www.ualberta.ca/tie)
COURSE SCHEDULE:

September 1: Course Introduction – What is Political Theory?

September 8: Plato: The Republic – The City in Speech
   Introduction, Books 1-3 (pp. 1-4; 31-70)

September 15: Plato: The Republic – The Cave
   Books 4-7 (pp. 70-110)

September 22: Machiavelli: The Prince*
   Introduction, Whole Book (pp. 268-292)

   Introduction, Part I (pp. 309-330)

October 6: Hobbes: Leviathan – The State
   Part II (pp. 330-343)

October 13: Locke: Second Treatise on Government
   Introduction, Parts I-II (pp. 360-393)

October 20: Midterm Review and Take-home Exam

October 27: Rousseau: Discourse on Inequality
   Introduction, Whole Book (pp. 418-437)

November 3: Rousseau: Social Contract
   Whole Book (pp. 437-465)

Fall Reading Week, no class 😊

November 17: Marx: Historical Materialism
   Introduction, Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts, and German Ideology
   (pp. 696-714)

November 24: Marx: Communism*
   Communist Manifesto (pp. 714-727)

Dec 1: Course Review and Take-home Final Exam
Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the Code are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the Code.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We also ask you to speak to your students about the importance of academic integrity.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter are much appreciated.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism
No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as their own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating
30.3.2(2)a No Student shall, in the course of an examination, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, use or attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination.

More information can be found at http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx
### Procedures for Instructors Regarding

**Plagiarism, Cheating,**

**Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence**

The following procedures are drawn from the Code of Student Behaviour as approved by GFC and the Board of Governors. The guidelines summarize what instructors must do when they have reason to believe that a student has plagiarized, cheated, misrepresented facts or participated in an offence. If you have questions about these guidelines, or about the policies, please talk with the senior administrator in your Faculty responsible for dealing with student discipline—usually an Associate Dean or the Appeals and Compliance Officer (Appeals Coordinator), University Governance (2-2655).

#### 30.5.4 Procedures for Instructors in Cases Respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour

**30.5.4(1)** When an Instructor believes that a Student may have committed an Inappropriate Academic Behaviour Offence [30.3.2] or that there has been Misrepresentation of Facts [30.3.6(4)] or Participation in an Offence [30.3.6(5)] in cases respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour in the course that he or she instructs, the Instructor will meet with the Student. Before such a meeting, the Instructor shall inform the Student of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the Student refuses or fails to meet with the Instructor within a reasonable period of time specified by the Instructor, the Instructor shall, taking into account the available information, decide whether a report to the Dean is warranted.

**30.5.4(2)** If the Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code, the Instructor shall, as soon as possible after the event occurred, report that violation to the Dean and provide a written statement of the details of the case. The instructor may also include a recommendation for sanction.

#### Possible Sanctions

One or more of the following sanctions given in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts:

- 30.4.3(2) a.i. a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour
- 30.4.3(2) a.ii. Reduction of a grade in a course
- 30.4.3(2) a.iii. a grade of F for a course
- 30.4.3(2) a.iv. a remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating Inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii
- 30.4.3(3) b. Expulsion
- 30.4.3(3) c. Suspension

The following sanctions may be used in rare cases:

- 30.4.3(3) e. Suspension of a Degree already awarded
- 30.4.3(3) f. Rescission of a Degree already awarded

#### 30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal

**30.6.1(1)** When a Student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2)e.ii, which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.

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**PROFESSOR STEVEN PENNEY**  
**CHAIR, CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**DR STEVEN DEW**  
**PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)**

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behaviour and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 27/08/2015