DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall 2016
POL S 211-A1: Introduction to History of Political Theory

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:50
Room: T 191
Course website: https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/course/view.php?id=31306

Instructor: Kristjana Loptson
loptson@ualberta.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00 in Tory 12-07, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Rezvaneh Erfani Hossein Pour
erfani@ualberta.ca

Course prerequisite: POL S 101 or the consent of the department
Course-based ethics approval: n/a
Community service learning component: n/a
Past or representative evaluative course material available: contact instructor
Additional mandatory instructional fees: none
Renumbered course: Please be advised that the previous number of the course POL S 211 was POL S 210. Please note that if you have already successfully completed POL S 210, then you cannot take this course for credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course we will study a number of influential political thinkers who have shaped Western political thought. Although we will touch on the ideas of other thinkers, we will focus on the writings of Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith, Marx and Gramsci. We will draw connections between these historical texts and contemporary social issues to demonstrate the timelessness of many of the most fundamental questions concerning political life. The course will be organized around the following key themes: human nature and culture; freedom and liberty; power and authority; consent and coercion; justice and equality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course you should:
- Have a solid grasp of the main ideas held by each of the thinkers explored in this course
- Understand the relevance of each of these thinkers for both historical and contemporary political debates
- Have a better sense of your own political views and the underlying theories that shape them
APPROACH TO LEARNING

In this course we will read the primary texts written by the various political theorists, which will be supplemented with podcasts. Students are expected to come to class each week having completed the assigned reading and having listened to the assigned podcasts. Class time will be used for lectures, group discussions and in-class activities.

COURSE TEXTBOOK AND OTHER MATERIALS


The 3rd edition of this textbook is available for purchase at the U of A bookstore, and used copies of the 2nd edition can be purchased online. There is one copy of the 2nd edition, and one copy of the 3rd edition placed on reserve at the Rutherford library.

Each of the assigned readings in this course are also available in an unedited format for free online. These primary texts are available through the U of A library, and can also be found online through Project Gutenberg. However, because they are unedited, they are not in the same shortened format provided in the textbook, and this means a lot of extra reading! If you choose not to get the textbook, you should use a copy of the textbook on reserve at the library to figure out the corresponding page numbers for each of the assigned readings.

To supplement the readings, you will also be assigned podcasts to listen to at various points in the semester. These podcasts can be downloaded to a device (phone, computer, mp3 player), or else streamed online. Links to these podcasts will be posted on eClass (which can be accessed through your BearTracks account).

I will also provide links to additional resources (readings, podcasts and videos) on eClass. These additional resources are completely optional, but might be helpful in better understanding the mandatory readings. If you find that you are struggling to understand the texts, check out these additional resources.

The weekly assigned readings and podcasts are listed in eClass.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Reading comprehension quizzes (10%)

At five times during the semester you will be given a short reading comprehension quiz. You only need to do four of these quizzes, but if you do all five, we will use your top four marks. Each quiz is worth 2.5% of your grade. The quizzes will be on the following dates: Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and Nov. 24.

Reading response papers (30%)

Nine times throughout the semester you will be given a list of reflection questions to help guide you in your reading of the texts. In six of these weeks, you will be expected to hand in a 1 page
(300 words max) paper responding to one of these questions. Papers are due at the start of Tuesday’s class. Each paper is worth 5% of your grade. You may choose to hand in up to nine papers, and we will take your six highest marks. Detailed instructions on how to write these response papers will be provided later.

**Short essay (30%)**
You will be asked to write a 5-6 page (approx. 1500 words) paper comparing and contrasting the views of two thinkers examined in this course on a particular theme. Lists of themes and more details about this assignment will be provided in October. Papers are due at the start of class on November 17.

**Final exam (30%)**
The final exam will be held during the scheduled exam period. The format will include both short answer and essay questions, and you will have three hours to complete it.

**Attendance and participation**
Attendance will not be taken in class, and you will not be graded on participation. However, in order to do well in this course, you will need to attend each of the classes, pay close attention and take good notes. In the final exam, you will be evaluated on your ability to integrate material from both the lectures and readings.

**Punctuality**
Please note that I expect you to come to class on time! It can be very disruptive when students keep arriving after the start of class. If you walk in after 12:30, I will consider you to have volunteered yourself if I need a student to give a performative reading of the text.

**Grading** Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89-94</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>84-88</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>79-83</td>
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<td>74-78</td>
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<td></td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>62-65</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<td>58-61</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
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<td>50-53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Policy for Late Assignments**

The only assignment that will be accepted late is the essay. Late essays will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour period past the deadline. Extensions will only be considered in situations of very serious extenuating circumstances.

**Additional information**

*Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.*

**Academic Support**

Centre for Writers: www.c4w.arts.ualberta.ca. Writing is a key skill for your success at university. C4W offers assistance and resources to improve your skills.

University Library: www.library.ualberta.ca. The library website gives you access to an amazing wealth of material, and the librarians are among the most helpful people you will meet on campus. See especially http://www.library.ualberta.ca/services/students/index.cfm

**Feeling Overwhelmed? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?):**

The Peer Support Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: 780-492-HELP (492-4357)
- Drop in: 2-707 in the S.U.B.
- Visit: https://www su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/

**Student Accessibility Services:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; Email: phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

**Academic Integrity**

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.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodeofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx) and avoid any behaviour that 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.

**Learning and working environment**
The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

• Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
• If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: (http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 available at http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**

All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs consult http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/; also discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with your instructor.

**Audio or Video Recording and Digital Content:**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 content author(s).

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.
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 can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions 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 are now also asking you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence. Your co-operation 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 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).

Cheating (Continued)

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. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or intend, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

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.

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