

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2237E–Section 001
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
2018-9**

ph: (519) 661-2111, ext. 85177

Dr. R. VandeWetering

Lectures: Tuesday 10:30-12:30 North Campus Building 113

Term Office Hours: SSC 4143 Thursday 1:00-4:00 or by appointment

E-mail: Please check your UWO e-mail account for periodic messages. My e-mail address is rvandewe@uwo.ca. When you e-mail me, put in the subject heading “2237E–your last name”. This will help prevent your message being deleted as spam.

TA emails: Mr. Althorpe calthorp@uwo.ca; Ms. Brown ebrow73@uwo.ca; Mr. Randall trandal3@uwo.ca; Ms. Vyas pvyas3@uwo.ca.

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites *Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.*

Prerequisites: Politics 1020E

Antirequisites: Phil 2800 F/G, Politics 2801 F/G, Politics 2802E

Course Description:

To properly study politics one must think theoretically. In this course we will examine a number of well-known political ideas (the good life, legitimacy, contract theory, revolution, civil disobedience, just war, the state, justice, and more!) by considering how they are articulated by a selection of historically prominent political theorists.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should a) be able to describe and evaluate the ideas of a selection of historically-prominent political theorists;

b) be able to relate the ideas of these theorists to themes centered on the question of what constitutes a “good life” and related political questions; and

c) improve their discussion and essay-writing skills.

Required Textbook

Morgan, Michael, ed. Classics of Moral and Political Theory (5th ed). Indianapolis: Hackett, 2011.

*For most essay topics, you MUST this edition of the textbook.

Evaluation

November Test	15%	Nov 20
		students last name A-F in Elborn College 2155
		students last name G-Z in Elborn College 2168
Essay One	20%	due Dec 4 at the beginning of class
Essay Two	25%	due Mar 12 at the beginning of class
Tutorial Questions	10%	
Final Exam	30%	during final exam period

November Test: 50 mc questions, 1 essay question (choice of three questions)

Essays: Minimum 2500 words, maximum 3000 words (not including bibliography or footnotes). Essay topics will be provided near the beginning of each term. Essays must be typed; double-spaced; you must keep a copy for yourself and you must keep your notes and rough drafts; if you make a reference to or quote from the internet, you must print the page cited, highlight the quote, and include it with the hard copy of the essay as an appendix. Include page numbers with every non-internet reference. Include a title page—please do not put your name on the inside of the essay (e.g. headers); also include your e-mail address on the title-page. Submit a hard copy in class and an electronic copy at Turn-it-in by 10:30 on the due date. **Late essays:** Papers must be submitted to me **personally** in class, during office-hours, or at times specified on or before the due-date. Do not place papers under the instructor's door. Extensions will only be granted in exceptional—and properly documented—medical circumstances, and by prior arrangement with instructor. Computer problems do not qualify as an excuse: prepare your essay assuming that you will have problems with your hard drive. Late papers will be penalized **10% per day**, including weekends. Social science students should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> if you have a problem.

Tutorials: 10% of final mark. There will be 16 tutorials. You will personally submit to the Teaching Assistant at the beginning of every tutorial a paper with answers to two questions. The questions may be found in the schedule below. Your two answers must be neatly hand-written or hand-printed, single-spaced, and fill at least one side of a sheet of paper. The submission of an answer of another student is cheating and will be reported to the department chair, and you will (at minimum) receive a mark of zero for your entire “Tutorial Questions” mark. Your Teaching Assistant will randomly choose one sheet to provide the starting point for discussion. Marking: at the end of 12 of the tutorials, the Teaching Assistant will announce that answers will be marked. The answers will be graded as pass/fail. If you arrive late or leave early, your answer will be marked a fail. If you do not hand in an answer, you will be marked a fail. Each pass is worth 1%. Your answer will only be returned if it has failed. Please keep a copy for yourself. Your 10 best results of these 12 will make up your “Tutorial Questions” mark.

Final: 3 hours. 75 mc question; 2 essay questions (in essay format: intro, thesis, conc); there will be a choice of questions.

Lecture Attendance: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or tutorials in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Readings: most are in Morgan; the rest are available at OWL.

Lecture and Tutorial Schedule

for each of the writers, consider: what is their view of human nature? What is the good life? Which political institutions are required for the good life?

FIRST TERM

WEEK ONE: SEPT 11: INTRODUCTION; THE AGE OF WARRIOR BANDS: HOMER

Readings: "Ancient Timeline" (OWL), "The Iliad and The Odyssey" (OWL), Morgan 75-93

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWO: SEPT 18: THE AGE OF THE POLIS: PLATO

Readings: Morgan 93-147

Tutorial Topic Sept 17: On Gangs

Read: "Teen Gangstas" (OWL)

1. "The most important reason that teens join a gang is to make money." Do you agree? Rank in importance the reasons for joining a gang. Which reason do you think Lohmann would see as most important?
2. Suggest at least one other possible reason to join a gang. If it helps, think about other types of gangs (eg the mafia, clans, cliques, terrorist groups).

WEEK THREE: SEPT 25: PLATO

Readings: Morgan 147-203

Tutorial Topic Sept 24: Antigone's Choice

Read: Morgan 3-30

- Questions: a) "Our greatest duty/obligation is to our children." How would Antigone respond to this statement? Which obligation was most important to Creon?
- b) List the various claimants to whom you have an obligation—and not just two or three. Think of all your relationships. Which has priority for you?

WEEK FOUR: OCT 2: PLATO

Readings: Morgan 203-251

Tutorial Topic Oct 1: Plato: Why be Just?

Read: Morgan 93-6, 229-34.

- Questions: a) "In a situation where you are completely unobserved, you should still act justly, mainly because this leads to personal fulfilment." How would Plato respond to this statement? List Plato's reasons for being just, even if no one is looking.
- b) Suggest at least one other possible reason, and defend it.

WEEK FIVE: OCT 9: READING WEEK

*by this week you should have chosen an essay topic; spend the week reading your main book!

WEEK SIX: OCT 16: PLATO/ARISTOTLE

Readings: Morgan 255-60, 265-73, 284-9, 295-307, 328-31.

Tutorial Topic Oct 15: Plato on the Cave; on Art

Read: Morgan 105-14, 186-90

- a) "The purpose of art (especially poetry) in a good polity is to make people passive." How would Plato respond to this statement? Please make a list of possible functions of art in a polity.
- b) Why might it be nice to live in Plato's 'cave'?

WEEK SEVEN: OCT 23: ARISTOTLE

Readings: Morgan 361-96

Tutorial Topic Oct 22: Socrates' Choice

Read: Morgan 64-71

Questions: a) "Socrates' most convincing argument for accepting the sentence of the court is based on his conception of the good life." How would you respond to this statement? Please remember to list Socrates' arguments, and those of Crito for resisting its sentence.

b) How could Plato argue against Socrates' arguments? Use arguments from books 2 to 10 in The Republic. Remember that in the Crito, Plato was reporting Socrates' words, where in The Republic, Socrates is a character who presents Plato's ideas.

WEEK EIGHT: OCT 30: ARISTOTLE

Readings: Morgan 396-416

Tutorial Topic Oct 29: Aristotle on Justice

Read: "Aristotle on Justice" (OWL)

1. What are the types of justice for Aristotle?

2. Which of these types of justice do you think is it most crucial to have in place in order to have a successful polity?

WEEK NINE: NOV 6: ARISTOTLE; EPICUREANISM

Readings: Morgan 422-7

Tutorial Topic Nov 5: Test Practise

WEEK TEN: NOV 13: THE AGE OF EMPIRES: EPICUREANISM; STOICISM

Readings: Morgan 430-42, "Epictetus" (OWL)

Tutorial Topic Nov 12: Aristotle on Education

Read: Morgan 415-9, 355-6, "Aristotle on Education" (OWL)

Questions: a) "The point of education is to get a good job." How would Aristotle respond to this statement?

b) Suggest three other reasons for going to university and rank them.

WEEK ELEVEN: NOV 20: TEST

Test at Elborn College: *students last name A-F in Elborn College 2155*

students last name G-Z in Elborn College 2168

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWELVE: NOV 27: THE AGE OF EMPIRES: AQUINAS; AUGUSTINE

Readings: Morgan 460-89, 500-3, 445-57

Tutorial Topic Nov 26: Aquinas on Just War and Rebellion

Read: Morgan 485-7

Questions: a) "Of the three requirements cited by Aquinas, the most important requirement for a war to be just is that it be done with the right intention." How would you respond to this statement? What has Aquinas left out? Suggest at least one more "requirement".

b) For Aquinas, when is rebellion permissible?

WEEK THIRTEEN: DEC 4: THE AGE OF STATES: CALVIN; MACHIAVELLI

Readings: "Calvin" (OWL), Morgan 509-44

No Tutorials this Week: TAs will be available to discuss your essays during this time.

ESSAY DUE TODAY AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

SECOND TERM

WEEK FOURTEEN: JAN 8: THE AGE OF STATES: MACHIAVELLI

Readings: Morgan 509-44

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK FIFTEEN: JAN 15: MACHIAVELLI; HOBBS

Readings: Morgan 544-574, 578-604

Tutorial Topic Jan 14: Machiavelli and Mercenaries and Trump.

Read: Morgan 517-22, 529-34, 544-6, 556-8, 568-73, "Machiavelli on the military" (OWL).

Questions: a) "The military is the most important political institution in a political unit." How would Machiavelli respond to this statement?

b) Was Donald Trump's success based on Fortuna or Virtù?

WEEK SIXTEEN: JAN 22: HOBBS

Readings: Morgan 604-48

Tutorial Topic Jan 14: Machiavelli and Political Morality.

Read: Morgan 509-74

Questions: a) "The ends justify the means." How would Machiavelli respond to this statement?

b) Under what circumstances is it acceptable for a politician to lie?

WEEK SEVENTEEN: JAN 29: HOBBS

Readings: Morgan 648-686

Tutorial Topic Jan 28: Hobbes on Power (Buwhahaha)

Read: Morgan 604-6

Questions: a) "Leaving aside the power created by uniting together, the reputation for wisdom is the most important element of power." How would Hobbes respond to this statement?

b) Using Hobbes' list, which powers are increasing in importance in 2019 Canada or the United States? Which are decreasing?

WEEK EIGHTEEN: FEB 5: HOBBS; LOCKE

Readings: Morgan 686-703, 711-37

Tutorial Topic Feb 4: Locke on Acorns and Apples

Read: Morgan 718-25

Questions: a) "A person's own labour is the only justification for claiming property ownership." How would Locke respond to this statement? Suggest other possible justifications.

b) "Money ruins everything." How would Locke respond to this statement?

WEEK NINETEEN: FEB 12: LOCKE

Readings: Morgan 737-776

Tutorial Topic Feb 11: Locke on Toleration

Read: Morgan 777-800

Questions: a) "Toleration weakens a polity." How would Locke respond to this statement?

b) Which of Locke's arguments for toleration is weakest? Suggest an argument for toleration to replace it.

WEEK TWENTY: FEB 19: READING WEEK

*by this week you should have chosen an essay topic; spend the week reading your main book!

WEEK TWENTY-ONE: FEB 26: LOCKE; ROUSSEAU

Readings: Morgan 882-904

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWENTY-TWO: MAR 5: ROUSSEAU

Readings: Morgan 904-24

Tutorial Topic Mar 4: Rousseau on Progress

Read: M 828-66

Questions: a) "Progress is an illusion." How would Rousseau respond to this statement?

b) "It is easier to live a good life in an urban area than in a rural area." How would you respond to this statement?

WEEK TWENTY-THREE: MAR 12: ROUSSEAU; MILL

Readings: Morgan 924-41, "Bentham"(OWL)

No Tutorials this Week: TAs will be available to discuss your essays during this time.

ESSAY DUE TODAY AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR: MAR 19: MILL

Readings: Morgan 1073-6, 1010-7

Tutorial Topic Mar 18: Mill and Taylor on the Subjection of Women

Read: Morgan 1103-57

Questions: a) "The subjection of women also produces the subjection of men." How would Mill and Taylor respond to this statement?

b) In 1869, Mill and Taylor wrote that "Women are unlikely to rebel collectively against men." Is this truer or less true in 2019?

WEEK TWENTY-FIVE: MAR 26: MILL; MARX

Readings: Morgan 1017-68

Tutorial Topic Mar 25: Marx's Manifesto

Read: M 1183-1202 plus the rest of the Marx readings

Questions: a) "The revolution is unavoidable." How would Marx respond to this statement?

b) "Canada in 2019 is ready for a revolution." How would Marx respond to this statement? What conditions must be in place for a revolution to occur?

WEEK TWENTY-SIX: APR 2: MARX

Readings: M 1160-83, 1202-13; "OllmannonMarx" (OWL); "HeldonMarx" (OWL)

No Tutorials this Week

WEEK TWENTY-SEVEN: APR 9: TBA

Readings: TBA

No Tutorials this Week

FINAL EXAM: IN EXAM PERIOD APR 11-30