

**POL200Y1Y**  
**(Section L0101)**  
**Political Theory: Visions of the Just/Good Society**  
Winter Term 2015  
Thursday 14:00 (2:00 p.m.) – 16:00 (4:00 p.m.)  
(Isabel Bader Theatre [BT] 101)

**Instructor:** Dr. Shaun Young  
Office: CG (Canadiana Gallery) 61B  
Office Hours: Thursday 17:30 (5:30 p.m.) – 18:45 (6:45 p.m.) or by appointment  
Phone: (647) 401-5283  
Email: pol200y1y@gmail.com

**Teaching Assistants:**

Nathaniel Gilmore: [nathaniel.gilmore@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:nathaniel.gilmore@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Matthew Hamilton: [matthew.hamilton@utoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.hamilton@utoronto.ca)  
Rachael Kimmerling: [rachael.kimmerling@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:rachael.kimmerling@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Stephanie Murphy: [smiranda.murphy@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:smiranda.murphy@mail.utoronto.ca)  
David Polansky: [david.polansky@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:david.polansky@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Taylor Putnam: [taylorputnam@gmail.com](mailto:taylorputnam@gmail.com)  
Daniel Schillinger: [daniel.schillinger@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:daniel.schillinger@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Abe Singer: [abe.singer@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:abe.singer@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Steve Trochimchuk: [s.trochimchuk@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:s.trochimchuk@mail.utoronto.ca)

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**Course Overview:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the history of political theory through a guided reading of a number of the classic texts in western political theory, written by a number of its most renowned and influential practitioners: namely, Thomas Aquinas, Niccolò Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, and John Locke. The texts under examination address issues that are at once timeless and timely and we will be analyzing them from the perspective of not only what they had to say about life at the time of their writing, but also what they may contribute to the analysis of problems currently confronting many societies.

The Course is also an introduction to the principal concepts and theoretical models that structure political theory and its understanding of the state, democracy, government, legitimacy, civil society, authority, and doctrines of political right. Political concepts can be understood as serving to organize political life and to relate actual laws, institutions, and interests to principles such as justice, freedom and equality in the deliberative process of political debate. Political theory has a necessary function in organizing how it is possible to talk about vital issues of common interest, and this course is an introduction to the world of political discourse.

The Course requires students to read original sources, which will be introduced and placed in historical and sociopolitical contexts through lectures.

**Required Texts:**

The assigned readings are all available on-line in various forms, and URLs have been provided. A bibliography of sample “physical” versions of the assigned texts has also been provided (on the final page of the syllabus) in the event students prefer to purchase or otherwise secure such copies.

**Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:**

Tutorial Participation	10%	<b><u>Tutorials begin the week of January 12</u></b>
Tutorial Question	10%	<b><u>Due Week of February 9-13/2015</u></b>
Term Paper	30%	<b><u>Due Week of March 2-6/2015</u></b>
Final Examination	50%	<b><u>TBA</u></b>

**PLEASE NOTE: The grades for this term will comprise 50% of your final grade for the Course**

**Class Attendance and Tutorial Participation:**

Classes and tutorials are an integral component of the course; they provide a facilitated opportunity for students to explore and discuss the assigned readings, thereby allowing students to ensure they possess a sound understanding of the Course material and the specific topic under examination.

**Tutorial participation accounts for 10% of each student's final grade for the winter term.** Please note that the grade assigned is for **participation, not attendance** (it is, of course, impossible to participate if you do not attend). Students who due to illness or for personal reasons are unable to attend a tutorial session should discuss this matter with their tutorial leader at the earliest possible point in time.

**Tutorial Question:**

Students will be required to write and submit an answer – approximately 500 words in length (typewritten, double-spaced) – to one of the questions that have been assigned for discussion in tutorial (a list of questions will be distributed during the first week of classes). This exercise provides an opportunity for students to engage in analysis and discussions of the assigned readings, thereby allowing students to both demonstrate their understanding of the Course material and the specific topic under examination and to improve their written communication skills. As with all written assignments, students should ensure that adequate attention is given to proper sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.

**Each student must submit a physical copy of his/her answer to his/her tutorial leader/teaching assistant (TA) at the beginning of the tutorial during the week of February 9-13, 2015. Answers submitted after that time will be assessed a late penalty (see below). This component accounts for 10% of each student's final grade for the winter term.**

**Term Paper:**

Students will be required to write and submit a term paper approximately eight (8) typewritten, double-spaced pages in length. **Papers that significantly fail to meet this length, as well as those that notably exceed it, will be penalized accordingly.** The paper must offer a critical assessment of an argument both presented by one of the theorists examined for the Course, and contained in one of the assigned readings (the topic can be the same one addressed for the Tutorial Question). The assessment should briefly describe the fundamental elements of the argument in question and then comment upon its strengths and weaknesses. In identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the argument under examination, students should, when possible and appropriate, comparatively engage the arguments of other theorists examined for the Course. This exercise provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of the Course material and the specific topic under examination; it also offers an opportunity for students to improve their written communication skills. As with all written assignments, students should ensure that adequate attention is given to proper sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.

Those who are uncertain regarding the expectations/requirements of academic essay writing are strongly encouraged to purchase a style manual. There are several excellent style manuals available to assist students with producing essays that satisfy the demands of proper academic writing. The following are two examples of such manuals: Kate L. Turabian, *Student's Guide for Writing College Papers*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977), and William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (Boston: Pearson/Longman, 2009).

**Each student must submit a physical/paper copy of his/her paper to her/his tutorial leader (TA) at the beginning of the tutorial during the week of March 2-6, 2015. Papers submitted after that time will be assessed a late penalty (see below). IN GENERAL, E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. For late essays electronic submissions are permitted, as long as a paper copy is also submitted at the earliest possible time after submission of the electronic copy. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT ANY PAPER SUBMITTED OTHER THAN DIRECTLY TO THE TA (I.E. THOSE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL) IS RECEIVED BY THE TA. The paper will account for 30% of each student's final grade for the winter term.**

### **Late Penalties:**

There will be a 2% per day (**including Saturdays and Sundays**) late penalty assessed against any assignment submitted after its due date. Please consult with your TA if you require an extension on the due date for your essay. Without prior permission from your TA, your essay will be assigned a late penalty. In general, extensions with respect to due dates will be granted only in the case of extenuating, unavoidable circumstances that can be **verified** (e.g. note from a doctor, etc). This policy will be strictly enforced. Students are advised to retain electronic and physical copies of their written assignments until the graded versions have been returned.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious offence against academic honesty/integrity, and, consequently, is completely unacceptable. Papers containing plagiarized passages or arguments/ideas will be severely penalized, potentially resulting in a **grade of 0** and further academic repercussions. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the University's regulations regarding plagiarism/academic misconduct, which can be found in the University's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (see <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>).

Students are expected to know how to avoid plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty (see, for example, <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>). To that end, it is strongly recommended that students take advantage of the assistance available through the Writing Centres (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>) operated by the University. Be sure to arrange appointments well in advance of relevant due dates. Should a student remain uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism/academic misconduct, s/he should seek clarification from her/his TA or the instructor. It is not permitted to submit the same assignment in two or more courses.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website. If, as a student, you object to using turnitin.com, please see the Course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments.

**Final Examination:**

There will be a final examination written during the regularly scheduled exam period (**April 8-30, 2015**) at the end of the winter term. The exam will be a combination of short answer and essay questions; **it will account for 50% of each student's final grade for the winter term.**

**Blackboard:**

Important course-related announcements and information will be posted on Blackboard – please consult it weekly.

**Email:**

Students are strongly encouraged to register for/activate a University email account. Course and University information will be distributed via the University email system.

*Substantive* questions concerning Course-related matters will not be addressed via email, as all such questions are best considered in person during office hours. The syllabus contains the answers to many typical questions, so please review it **BEFORE** sending a (non-substantive) question/enquiry via email.

<b><u>Important Dates</u></b>	
January 5	classes begin in S and resume in Y section code courses
January 11	<a href="#">waiting lists</a> for S section code courses turned off at end of day
January 18	last day to add or make section changes to S section code courses; last day to withdraw from <a href="#">commerce/computer science/ bioinformatics &amp; computational biology subject POSTs</a> for the 2015 winter session if enrolled in ONLY S section code courses to have current session fees adjusted; S course load count date for <a href="#">program/per-course fee determination</a>
<b>February 9-13</b>	<b>Tutorial Question due</b>
February 13	April examination timetable posted
<b>February 16</b>	Family Day - University closed; <i>last day to cancel Y section code courses without academic penalty;</i> last day to add or remove a <a href="#">CR/NCR option</a> for Y section code courses
February 17-20	Reading Week - no classes
<b>March 2-6</b>	<b>Term Paper due</b>
March 8	last day to cancel S section code courses without academic penalty; last day to add or remove a <a href="#">CR/NCR option</a> for S section code courses
<b>April 2</b>	classes end; <i>term work in S and Y section code courses must be submitted unless an earlier date has been stipulated;</i> last day to request <a href="#">LWD</a> from S and Y section code courses
April 3	Good Friday - university closed
April 6-7	study break
<b>April 8-30</b>	<b>Examination period</b>

## Lecture Schedule and Readings:

All of the below readings are available on-line in various forms, and URLs have been provided. A bibliography of sample “physical” versions of the assigned texts has also been provided (on the final page of the syllabus) in the event students prefer to purchase or otherwise secure such copies.

- January 8**                    Introduction to the Term  
 Review/discussion of syllabus; identification and explanation of expectations; dissemination of other useful information; brief introductory lecture.
- January 15**                    Aquinas on Law and Politics  
 \*READINGS: Thomas Aquinas: Law (*Summa Theologiae [ST]*: First Part of the Second Part, Questions 90-98), the Best Constitution (*ST*: First Part of the Second Part, Question 105), and Statesmanship (*On Kingship*: chapters 1-6)  
*ST*: <http://sacred-texts.com/chr/aquinas/summa/index.htm>  
 PDF version: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/aquinas/summa.pdf>  
*On Kingship*: <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/DeRegno.htm>
- January 22**                    Machiavelli and the Forms of State and Governance  
 READINGS: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chapters I-XI  
[http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/prince/prince\\_contents.html](http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/prince/prince_contents.html)
- January 29**                    Machiavelli and the Forms of the State and Governance  
 READINGS: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chapters XII-XXVI  
[http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/prince/prince\\_contents.html](http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/prince/prince_contents.html)
- February 5**                    Machiavelli, the *Discourses*, Justice, and Modern Political Theory  
 READINGS: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, chapters 2-7, 9, 12, 16-20  
<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/machiavelli/niccolo/m149d/index.html>
- †**NOTE: TUTORIAL QUESTION IS DUE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9-13, 2015**
- February 12**                    Hobbes and the State of Nature  
 READINGS: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The First Part, chapters XIII-XV  
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>
- †**NOTE: TUTORIAL QUESTION IS DUE THIS WEEK (February 9-13)**
- February 19**                    **NO CLASS: READING WEEK**
- February 26**                    The Hobbesian Commonwealth I  
 READINGS: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The Second Part, chapters XVII-XXI  
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>

†**NOTE: TERM PAPER IS DUE IN TUTORIAL WEEK OF MARCH 2-6, 2015**

**Lecture Schedule and Readings (Cont.):**

**March 5**                    The Hobbesian Commonwealth II  
READINGS: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, The Second Part, chapters XXVI, XXIX, XXX  
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>

**†NOTE: TERM PAPER IS DUE IN TUTORIAL THIS WEEK (March 2-6)**

**March 12**                    Locke and Toleration  
READING: Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*  
<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/locke/toleration.pdf>

**March 19**                    Locke's State of Nature  
READINGS: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters I-IX  
<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/locke/government.pdf>

**March 26**                    Locke's Liberal Commonwealth  
READINGS: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters X-XIX  
<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/locke/government.pdf>

**April 2**                      **FINAL CLASS: REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM**

**APRIL 8 – 30 FINAL EXAM** (specific date, time and location will be provided when available)

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**Academic Accommodations**

**Accessibility:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this Course. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns regarding the Course, the classroom or Course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [accessibility.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>.

**Accommodation for Religious Observances:** The University's expectations on this matter are articulated in its [Policy on Scheduling of Classes and Examinations and Other Accommodations for Religious Observances](#). Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to the Course instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements that conflict with said observances. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event/assignment due date.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Departmental Chair. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Departmental Chair and submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

## **Bibliography – Assigned Readings**

Below are some relatively inexpensive texts that include the assigned readings.

Thomas Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics*. Ed. and intro. William P. Baumgarth and Richard J. Regan (Hackett Publishing, 1988).

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince and the Discourses*. Intro. Max Lerner (Random House, Inc./ McGraw-Hill, 1950).

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Ed. and intro. Edwin Curley (Hackett Publishing, 1994).

John Locke, *The Selected Political Writings of John Locke*. Ed. and Intro. Paul E. Sigmund (W.W. Norton and Company, 2004).

*There are numerous other versions that are equally suitable/acceptable.*