



**Political Science**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**POL200Y1 Y: Political Theory**  
**Summer 2015**

Time & Place: T R 6-8pm, BA 1190  
Instructors: Jonas Schwab-Pflug & Robert A. Ballingall  
Email: [jonas.schwab.pflug@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jonas.schwab.pflug@mail.utoronto.ca) & [rob.ballingall@utoronto.ca](mailto:rob.ballingall@utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: F 10am-12pm, SS 3118

Teaching Assistants

(TAs): Andrew Gross & Daniel Schillinger  
TAs' Email: [andrew.gross@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.gross@mail.utoronto.ca) & [daniel.schillinger@utoronto.ca](mailto:daniel.schillinger@utoronto.ca)  
Tutorials: T R 3-4pm & 4-5pm, BA B024

---

**Course Description**

---

This course introduces the study of political theory by carefully examining the greatest political thinkers of classical antiquity and early-modern Europe. Political theory is introduced by turning to these old books because the study of political thought more-or-less continues to operate within the parameters set down within their pages. As this suggests, there is an important sense in which political theory proceeds with great respect for the wisdom of its earliest students. In this discipline at least, it is not always the case that thinkers more proximate to ourselves possess a superior mastery of their subject. This is so because political theory attempts to understand the phenomena of politics in light of the broadest and deepest human purposes. Its animating concern is to identify these purposes and the social circumstances most conducive to their fulfilment, what Plato calls “the best regime” (*Republic*, 6.497b7) and the “good city” (*Republic*, 5.472e1). The sheer magnitude of this question, along with the ever-changing contingencies of human affairs, militate against a decisive, universally valid response. Indeed, despite millennia of rigorous analysis and argument, no single account of the best regime has succeeded in quieting all reasonable objections. Hence, instead of expounding scientific laws in the modern sense of the phrase, political theory is preoccupied with a terrain of overlapping, yet otherwise strikingly dissimilar accounts of the best regime, each of which adduces its own set of self-legitimizing reasons. Our purpose in the course shall be to familiarize ourselves with this terrain and to situate our own understandings of the “good city” within this intellectual landscape.

---

**Required Texts** (available at the University of Toronto Bookstore, 214 College St.)

---

Plato. *The Republic*, tr. Allan Bloom (Basic Books)  
Aristotle. *The Politics*, tr. Carnes Lord (University of Chicago Press)  
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, tr. Harvey C. Mansfield (University of Chicago Press)  
Niccolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, trs. Harvey C. Mansfield & Nathan Tarcov  
(University of Chicago Press)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. E. M. Curley (Hackett)  
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ed. C. B. Macpherson (Hackett)

## Marking Scheme

---

1. Tutorial attendance and participation (10% of the final grade).
2. First essay of 1800 words (15% of the final grade). Essay topics will be distributed in advance. The first essay asks students to develop a short, interpretive argument concerning a topic from Plato's *Republic*. The essay is due in class, at the beginning of lecture, on **Tuesday, June 2**.
3. Midterm examination (25% of the final grade). An in-class exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 30**. This exam will cover Plato and Aristotle. It will include a short-answer section that will ask students to explain briefly the significance of various vital concepts in the political thought of these two figures, as well as an essay question.
4. Second essay of 2500 words (20% of the final grade). Essay topics will be distributed in advance. The second essay asks students to compare Machiavelli and Hobbes and to develop an interpretive argument concerning how and why these thinkers agree and/or disagree about a given topic. The essay is due in class, at the beginning of lecture, on **Tuesday, July 28**.
5. Final examination (30% of the final grade). A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for the exam period (August 11-17). Like the midterm exam, it will include a short-answer section and an essay question.

## Course Rules and Policies

---

Preparation: The books we will be studying are tremendously rich and subtle; they reward only the most thorough and patient reader. It is therefore essential that students set aside several hours every day throughout the summer to read carefully the assignments for each lecture and to avoid falling behind. Given the compressed nature of the course, consistent preparation is especially important.

Translations: We require that you use the particular editions listed under "Required Texts" above. It is especially important that you use the assigned translations of those texts not originally written in English.

Recording and/or publishing lectures: Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructors are the instructors' intellectual property, covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record lectures or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructors' explicit permission, and may not do so unless permission is granted. This includes tape-recording, filming, distributing Blackboard materials, etc. Such permission will be granted only to students requiring accommodations due to a learning disability and who have registered with accessibility services, on the understanding that the materials in question are for the study purposes of that individual student and are not to be "published" in any way. **It is absolutely forbidden for a student to publish the instructors' lec-**

**tures** to a website or in any other form, or to sell them in any form, without formal permission.

Office hours and communication: Office hours are every Friday between 10am-12pm in SS 3118. We will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours, weekends not included. Email is for short questions of clarification only. If you have concerns or questions that cannot be answered in a short response, please see us during office hours.

Tutorials: Tutorial registration is done through Blackboard, beginning on the first day of class. Tutorials begin the week of May 17 and will be held weekly throughout the course thereafter, **the week of June 28 excepted**. The tutorials proceed as small seminars wherein students are expected to discuss the weekly readings with each other and their T.A. The tutorial component of a student's grade is determined by both regular attendance and the quality of the student's tutorial participation. Regular, thorough preparation is therefore expected.

Blackboard: All students should ensure that they have access to the Blackboard website for this course. Important course announcements will be sent, and tutorial registration will be done, through the Blackboard system. Students must use a valid UTOR e-mail address and **check their e-mail regularly**.

Submitting your essays: Essays must be submitted **in class, at the beginning of the lecture, on the day that they are due**. Late essays should be submitted to the Department of Political Science, main office (Sidney Smith Hall, room 3018).

Word limit for essays: Place a word count on the first page of your essay, just under your name. Essays that exceed the word limit stipulated for the assignment will be penalized 2 point for each 100 words.

Late penalties: 3% for the first day and 2% for each following day, including weekends. Barring extensions, essays submitted more than ten days after the assignment deadline and will not be accepted.

Extensions & make-up exams: The deadlines are firm. No extensions or make-up exams will be granted except in dire cases. Any student seeking an extension must have acceptable reasons that are adequately documented—for example, a medical emergency supported by an official U of T medical certificate. Extensions will be granted only in extenuating and unavoidable circumstances outlined to the instructor in writing or via email prior to the due date in question. **Extensions will not be granted in any case after the submission deadline**. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of the missed course requirement. Multiple assignments or midterms from other courses scheduled for the same date—or other work commitments—do not constitute acceptable reasons for extensions, so please plan accordingly. All make-up tests will be held on the morning of the last day of the course.

Plagiarism: You should also familiarize yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism. See in particular <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>. In short, to comply with the university's code regarding academic honesty, you must write your papers specifically for this class; you should not borrow material from another class; and you should not use another person's words or ideas without attribution, whether those words or

ideas come from conversations, the internet, or printed materials. If you are in doubt about whether you are committing plagiarism, feel free to ask the course instructors or your TA. A good rule of thumb is that, if you are wondering whether you might be committing plagiarism, you should cite a source.

Turnitin.com: 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 reference database, where they will be used *solely* for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of Turnitin.com are described on the Turnitin.com website. Use of Turnitin.com is strongly encouraged but voluntary. If you elect not to use Turnitin.com, you are required to submit all of your rough work (notes, outlines, drafts, etc.) along with your essay on the due date.

Accessibility needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about 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 [studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility).

Accommodations for religious observances: It is the policy of the University of Toronto to arrange reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays. Students have a responsibility to alert the instructors in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Please review the policy at: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/religious.htm>

## Course Schedule

---

### Unit 1: Classical Political Thought

May 12 (T):     Introductory lecture

#### Plato

May 14 (R):     *The Republic*, book I

May 19 (T):     *The Republic*, books I-II (tutorials begin this week)

May 21 (R):     *The Republic*, books II-III

May 26 (T):     *The Republic*, books IV-V

May 28 (R):     *The Republic*, books VI-VII

June 2 (T):     *The Republic*, books VIII-X  
**First Essay Due in Class**

## Aristotle

- June 4 (R): *The Politics*, book I
- June 9 (T): *The Politics*, book II: chs. 1-4, 7-8; book III: chs. 1-4
- June 11 (R): *The Politics*, book III: chs. 5-13
- June 16 (T): *The Politics*, book IV
- June 18 (R): *The Politics*, book VII
- June 22-26: Summer Break; No Class
- June 30 (T): **Midterm Examination** (no tutorials this week)

## **Unit 2: Early Modern Political Thought**

### Niccolò Machiavelli

- July 2 (R): *The Prince*, Dedicatory Letter; chs. 1-15
- July 7 (T): *The Prince*, chs. 16-26
- July 9 (R): *Discourses on Livy*, Dedicatory Letter; book I: Preface, chs. 1-34
- July 14 (T): *Discourses on Livy*, book I: chs. 35-60
- July 16 (R): *Discourses on Livy*, book II: Preface, chs. 1-3, 15-16, 19-20, 27, 29; book III: chs. 1-3, 7-9, 22, 29-31, 34, 41, 43

### Thomas Hobbes

- July 21 (T): *Leviathan*, Letter Dedicatory; author's Introduction; part I: chs. 1-12
- July 23 (R): *Leviathan*, part I: chs. 13-16; part II: chs. 17-18
- July 28 (T): *Leviathan*, part II: chs. 19-21, 25, 29-30  
**Second Essay Due in Class**

### John Locke

- July 30 (R): *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 1-5
- August 4 (T): *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 6-10
- August 6 (R): *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 11-19