Course Description

This course will provide an opportunity to discuss and write about George Grant’s political, philosophical, and religious thought as found in his six short books and some shorter writings, as these are clarified by some supplementary material from other authors. Nationalism, liberalism, modernity, and technology will be examined from the standpoint of political philosophy and Christian revelation.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students will be expected to submit three one-page comments on the assigned readings and to be prepared to introduce the discussion of these readings in class. These comments will count for 15% of the final course grade.

A short essay (maximum 1500 words or 6 typed double-spaced pages) worth 15% of the final grade will be due October 21st. It should deal with one or more of the questions raised in the required readings up to that point in the course.

A final paper due December 4th for students in POL471S (up to 4000 words) and December 18th for students in POL2071S (up to 5000 words) will count for 60% of the final grade. Consultation with the instructor regarding the topic for this paper is strongly advised.

Class participation will count for the remaining 10% of the final grade.

Books Ordered

George Grant, Philosophy in the Mass Age (1959; University of Toronto Press, 1995).

George Grant, Lament for a Nation (1965; McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2005).

George Grant, Technology and Empire (Anansi, 1969).

George Grant, Time as History (1971; University of Toronto Press, 1995).


George Grant, Technology and Justice (Anansi, 1986).

Course Outline

Sept. 9  Introduction: Problems and Goals

Sept. 16 & 23  Canadian Nationalism
Grant, Lament for a Nation (1965).
F. H. Underhill, ‘
Grant, ‘Canadian Fate and Imperialism,’ in Technology and Empire (1969), 64-78. [Xerox]
Grant, Review of If You Love This Country, Collected Works, IV, 702-05. [Xerox]

Sept. 30 & Oct. 7  Grant in the 1950s
Grant, ‘Philosophy’ (1951), Collected Works, II, 3-21. [Xerox]
Grant, ‘The Minds of Men in the Atomic Age’ (1955), Collected Works, II, 156-65. [Xerox]
Grant, ‘The Uses of Freedom: A Word and Our World’ (1956), Collected Works, II, 190-203. [Xerox]
Grant, Philosophy in the Mass Age (1959).

Oct. 14  North American Civilization

Oct. 21 & 28  Modern Liberalism
John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (1971), 11-33 and 46-53. [Xerox]

Nov. 4  Classical Political Philosophy

Nov. 18 & 25  Technology
Grant, Time as History (1971).
Grant, ‘The computer does not impose on us the ways it should be used,’ in Collected Works,

**Dec. 2 Christianity**


Grant, ‘Introduction to Simone Weil,’ in *Collected Works*, IV, 000-000. [Xerox]

Simone Weil,

*Seven Selections and Five Dates for Three Short Comments*

Grant, ‘Philosophy.’ (September 28)

or Grant, ‘The Uses of Freedom: A Word and Our World.’ (September 28)

Grant, ‘In Defence of North America.’ (October 12)

or Grant, ‘Religion and the State.’ (October 12)

Grant, ‘Tyranny and Wisdom.’ (November 2)

Grant, ‘The University Curriculum.’ (November 16)

Grant, ‘The computer does not impose . . . .’ (November 23)

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**Supplementary Bibliography**

*George Grant*


Leo Strauss

Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History* (1953).

Martin Heidegger


Simone Weil