

POL 446/2007: 20th Century Political Thought

Instructor: Margaret Kohn

Thursday 10:00 - 12:00

Location: UC55

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-2:30 (Larkin 202)

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This course is a continuation of POL 2000Y/320Y. It is a survey of leading texts in 20th century political thought. This course blends a “great books approach” with a thematic approach. We will read the works of canonical political theorists and discuss their distinctive contributions, including concepts such as the original position (Rawls), the critique of the social (Arendt), disciplinary power (Foucault), performativity (Butler), violence (Fanon), and deliberative democracy (Habermas). At the same time, we will pay attention to the way that a debate about obligation and civil disobedience, normalization and resistance runs through these different works.

Course Requirements:

Graduate students may choose from two different marking options:

Class participation (30%) + final research paper (70%)

or Reaction Papers (80%) + class participation (10%) + attendance (10%)

Undergraduate students: Five reaction Papers (80%) + class participation (10%) + attendance (10%)

Reaction papers: Every other week, students who choose this option are required to submit reaction papers. The length should be around 1200 words. These papers should provide a close reading and an interpretation of the assigned readings. The reaction papers should do more than summarize the reading. They should make an argument and/or identify a puzzle. Your reaction papers must be uploaded on Blackboard by 5 pm on Wednesday. No late papers will be accepted. If you are unable to complete a paper by the deadline, you may write the following week instead, but you must submit the first two papers by week 5.

Final Research Paper: This paper is due on the last day of classes. It should be approximately 20 pages in length. The proposal is due by Week 8. Please submit it by email. Instructions for the proposal are available on Blackboard.

Participation: This course is based on a seminar format therefore all students are expected to actively listen and to contribute to class discussions. The best way to prepare for class is to read the assigned material carefully and to take notes. There may also be opportunities to give short presentations in class or to lead the discussion. If you do not feel comfortable speaking in class, I encourage you to select the “reaction paper option” because this provides an alternative way to assess your engagement with the readings. Students will have the option of doing short, informal presentations in class and these will also contribute to the mark for participation.

Required Books:

Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*

John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement*

M. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

J. Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*

J. Butler, *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*

Schedule of Readings:

Week One (January 14): Introduction

Week Two (January 21): Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*

Week Three (January 28): Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*

Week Four (February 4): Hannah Arendt, “On Violence”

F. Fanon, “Concerning Violence,” *The Wretched of the Earth* (BB)

Week Five (February 11): John Rawls, “Civil Disobedience” (BB); John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement*, 1-79.

Week Six (February 18): John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement*, 80-end.

Weeks Seven (Feb. 25) and Eight (March 3): M. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Week Nine (March 3): J. Habermas, *The Philosophical Critique of Modernity*, Chapters 9 and 10, pp. 238-293. M. Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History.” (BB)

Week Ten (March 10): J. Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*

Week Eleven (March 24): J. Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*

Michel Foucault, "Fearless Speech." (BB)

Week Twelve (March 31): J. Butler, *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*

Plagiarism: Any case of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Academic Integrity. More information about plagiarism can be found at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

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 the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Blackboard: Please check Blackboard regularly for updates to the syllabus, announcements, etc. To access a Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the **POL 446/2007** course website (please look for the combined grad /undergraduate course number).