This course is an introduction to the history of Western political theory. We examine a series of texts from the ancient Greek world, the Renaissance, and the Civil War period in England that set the intellectual boundaries for the course. We begin by looking back to the fiercely independent city-states of the ancient Greeks that forged the cultural, political, philosophical, and moral foundations of the Western world. By exploring the writings of Plato and Aristotle, we encounter not only the epitome of ancient Greek political exposition, but also the most brilliant expositions on politics ever written. We turn next to the writings of Machiavelli, which, in typical Renaissance fashion, extol the virtues of the ancient Roman world while laying the philosophical groundwork for the political rebirth of the West. We end our examination of Western political theory with the writings of Hobbes and Locke, which, while confronting the political problems of seventeenth-century England, inaugurate the far-reaching principles of modern liberalism. By the end of the course, the diligent student will have a university-level understanding of the political ideas and ideals that have formed and informed the traditions of the Western world.

**Required Texts**

- Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, Grube (trans.) Hackett Publishing
- Plato, *Republic*, Grube (trans.) Hackett Publishing
- Machiavelli, *The Portable Machiavelli*, Bondanella and Musa (eds. trans.) Penguin

**Evaluation**

- Tutorial Participation 10%
- First Term Test (October 31) 15%
- Second Term Test (December 5) 15%
- 8-page Term Paper (Due April 3) 25%
- Cumulative Final Examination (TBA) 35%
**Regarding Missed Term Tests**

Students who miss a term test will be assigned a mark of zero for that test unless they are granted special consideration. If the term test was missed for reasons entirely beyond the student’s control, a written request (no emails please) for special consideration may be submitted to the instructor within one week of the missed test. This request must explain the reason for missing the test and include appropriate documentation (e.g., Verification of Student Illness or Injury form).

**IMPORTANT:** All makeup tests will be held on **April 3, 2019** from 6:10pm to 8:00pm.

**Regarding Term Paper**

Term paper topics will be distributed in advance and the paper is due at the beginning of class (6:10pm) on **April 3, 2019**.

Students should keep hard copies of their term paper; the instructor and TA assume no responsibility in the event of loss or misplacement of submitted work.

The instructor and TA reserve the right to question students on the content of their written assignments. “Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at [http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html).”

“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.”

Students will also be required to submit a hard copy of their paper to their TA.

**IMPORTANT:** Late papers will be penalized 5% per day, no exceptions.

**Regarding Appeals**

Appeals must be accompanied by a half-page explanation of the merit for appeal (that you thought the assignment would get a better grade is not a sufficient reason for appeal). Appeals are to be submitted to your teaching assistant for consideration **within 7 days after the tests/papers are returned.** I will consider the appeal only if a resolution cannot be found; however, I will adjust the grade only for egregious errors (5% or more).
Quercus

Important course related announcements, handouts, and reading guides for the theorists will be posted on Quercus. Please consult accordingly.

Email

Substantive questions on course material will not be addressed via email as all such questions are best considered in tutorials or during my office hours. Email should only be used for bureaucratic or course related problems. **IMPORTANT:** The syllabus answers most questions so please read the syllabus carefully **BEFORE** emailing.

*****The use of digital recorders during lecture sessions is **not allowed*******

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**Reading and Lecture Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Organizational Meeting and Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24</td>
<td>Philosophy, Justice, and the Tyranny of the Soul</td>
<td><em>Reading: Plato, Trial and Death of Socrates; Republic</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>FIRST TERM TEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>City-States, Citizenship, and the Good Life</td>
<td><em>Reading: Aristotle, Politics</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>SECOND TERM TEST</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Reorganization and Introduction to the Early Modern Period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16, 23, 30</td>
<td>Virtù, Fortuna, and Glory</td>
<td><em>Reading: Machiavelli, Discourses, Book I</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State of Nature, Contracts, and the Mortal God of Politics

February 6, 13, 27, March 6  
**Reading:** Hobbes, *Leviathan* (chapters 1–21)

Life, Liberty, and the Right to Rebellion

March 13, 20, 27  
**Reading:** Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

April 3  
**TERM PAPERS DUE/MAKEUP TERM TESTS**