

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
POL200Y1Y: Visions of the Just/Good Society
Summer 2016

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8PM
SS 1069

Instructor: Emma Planinc
Dept. of Political Science

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Note: For questions about the course, your TA should be the first point of contact. When contacting the instructor via email, please be sure to use your utoronto email address and include the course code in your subject heading. Substantive discussions about the course materials are always better conducted in office hours.

Office Hours: VC (Old Vic) 103 Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:30, or by appointment.

Tutorials: **Thursday 5-6 SS 2101** (TA: Dorina Verli/ dorina.verli@utoronto.ca)
 Thursday 5-6 SS 1078 (TA: Daniel Schillinger/ daniel.schillinger@mail.utoronto.ca)
 Thursday 8-9 SS 1078 (TA: Andrew Gross/ andrew.gross@mail.utoronto.ca)

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to political theory through a close reading of foundational texts in Western political theory. The first semester begins in Ancient Greece, with the invention of political philosophy, and concludes in introducing the fundamental shift that occurred following the rise and fall of the Roman Republic, and the ascendance of Christianity and Christian thought. The second semester begins in the Renaissance, and concludes in early modern England. This term will track the building blocks and foundations of the modern world and liberal political thought.

When it comes to considering the core texts of Western political theory, there are a number of driving questions that unite our journey: what is the best political order for human beings? What does it mean to live a just or good life? And is it the case that the just life *is* a life of politics? Moving from an account of the *polis* in Plato and Aristotle to the contemporary liberal state inspired by Hobbes and Locke, the conception of the human being's relationship to politics – and the way in which the state either shapes or restricts the efflorescence of the good human life or of human nature – shifts over time. We will, over the course of the year, investigate how all of these accounts have served, and still serve, an integral purpose in facilitating a deep engagement with our most fundamental questions.

Course Requirements and Due Dates:

First Essay, on Plato's *Republic* (5-7 pages)

Due June 16
20%

Second Essay, Comparative (8-10 pages)	Due August 2 35%
Final Exam (scheduled during exam period)	35%
Tutorials	
Attendance and Participation	10%

Participation and Attendance: Attendance and participation in tutorials is essential to your success in the course. They will be conducted in a seminar, not a lecture, style, and thus will be the primary opportunities for you to engage in close readings of the course materials with your teaching assistants and peers. The goal of the tutorial is to establish a dialogue amongst everyone involved – so be sure to actively engage. And have fun! **TUTORIALS BEGIN THURSDAY MAY 19.**

Attendance at lectures is also essential. Some of the required course material on which you will be tested will be available only through the lectures, and lecture notes will not be posted online. These are also dense and often complicated books, so the lectures will be key to approaching the texts in their contexts and with some guidance.

Papers: You will be required to write two papers: one of 5-7 pages on one text (Plato’s *Republic*), and one of 8-10 pages comparing two authors. The papers are meant to be sustained engagements with the texts; thinking through the authors’ arguments as they are presented and **without employing secondary materials.** If secondary sources are consulted, please see the section on ‘Academic Honesty.’ The second paper assignments will be distributed during the first class of the second term, and all topics will pertain to the authors to come. The topics will be distributed so far ahead of time so that you can be actively thinking about your comparative analysis as the course proceeds. You are highly encouraged to consult with your teaching assistant and the instructor throughout both the first and second terms to discuss your papers; the early presentation of the second essay assignment is, however, specifically designed to encourage active discussions and meetings for the generation of thesis topics and improvements on writing style and presentation following from the first paper.

You will be required to submit your paper on the due date in **hard copy at the beginning of lecture.** You will also be required to submit your paper to **Turnitin.com** prior to the submission time of the hard copy. The university’s policy on Turnitin is as follows: “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.” For alternative arrangements regarding submission of written assignments, please consult the instructor. Alternatives may include some or all of the following: submission of all drafts, notes, and rough work; submission of photocopies of sources, including call numbers and web site addresses; an individual meeting with the professor to discuss the paper in detail.

Note that you are required to keep all rough and draft work, and copies of assignments, until final grades are posted on ROSI.

Submission of Assignments and Late Penalties: Penalties for late papers will be calculated at 2%/day (including weekends), beginning at the start of lecture on the day the assignment is due. Papers must be submitted in hard copy and through Turnitin by 6:10pm on the due date. Extensions will only be granted with appropriate medical or other documentation. Please **ensure that you put the name of your TA on your assignments.**

Exam: There will be a 3-hour exam during the final exam period for the summer term. Details about the date and content of the exam TBA. It will cover all materials and lectures in the course.

Academic Honesty: I take an *extremely* dim view of plagiarism, as does the University. Whenever you draw on or allude to ideas other than your own, you *must* reference the original source, whatever it may be (a book, a website, a lecture, an introductory essay, etc.). This rule applies not only to formally assessed work, but to *all* of your contributions in this class. Nor is it exclusively applicable in the case of quotations; *all* distinctive ideas you borrow from others, even where you paraphrase them in your own words, should be referenced. If you have any questions about this while writing your papers, please ask your TA or come and see me. University of Toronto's policy regarding plagiarism as outlined in the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" will be strictly enforced. For more on plagiarism and how to avoid it, please see the final page of this syllabus.

Blackboard: Please ensure you have access to the Portal site for this course, as certain required readings will only be available here.

Use of Course Materials: For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording is prohibited. In rare cases, the instructor will make exceptions upon presentation of medical certification or other appropriate documentation.

Required Texts and Course Schedule

Texts will be available for purchase at the **University of Toronto Bookstore.**

In all cases, listed translations of the primary texts are **REQUIRED**, and other translations should not be substituted, because there can be crucial differences between translations and paginations across editions. You are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to the lecture, and you must bring your texts with you to class, as we will be referring to them frequently.

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be available for download on, or linked through, Blackboard.

Plato, *Republic*, trans. G.M.A. Grube (Hackett)

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, trans. G.M.A. Grube (Hackett)

Aristotle, *The Politics*, trans. Carnes Lorde (University of Chicago Press)

Augustine, *Political Writings*, ed. Ernest L. Fortin (Hackett)

Niccolo Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings*, ed. David Wootton (Hackett)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley (Hackett)

John Locke, *Political Writings*, ed. David Wootton (Hackett)

- May 10** **Introduction:** What is political theory, and why should you care?
- May 12** **Plato**, *Republic*, Books 1 & 2
- May 17** Plato, *Republic*, Books 3, 4, 5
- May 19** Plato, *Republic*, Books 6, 7, 8 [**Tutorials begin today**]
- May 24** Plato, *Republic*, Books 9 & 10 [**First Essay Topic Distributed**]
- May 26** **The Trial of Socrates**
Plato, *Apology* (in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*)
Plato, *Crito* (in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*)
- May 31** NO CLASS (work on your papers!)
- June 2** Introduction to **Aristotle**
* Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Selections: Book 1, Book 10)
Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 1 & 2
- June 7** Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 3, 4, 5
- June 9** Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 6, 7, 8
- June 14** **Introduction to the Christian World**
* Bible: Genesis, Matthew (Selections)
Augustine, “The Reconsiderations,” in *Political Writings* (p.1-2)
Augustine, *City of God*, in *Political Writings*, Books 1-5 (p. 3-47)
- June 16** Augustine, *City of God*, Selections [**First Essay Due**]
- FIRST TERM EXAM BREAK**
- June 28** Refresher on the course thus far, looking toward Machiavelli through Aquinas
* **Aquinas**, “Treatise on Law”
* Aquinas, “On Kingship” [**Second Essay Topic Distributed**]
- June 30** **Machiavelli**, *The Prince*, in *Selected Political Writings*, Chs. 1-14
- July 5** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, in *Selected Political Writings*, Chs. 15-26
- July 7** Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, in *Selected Political Writings* (selections Book 1)
- July 12** Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, in *Selected Political Writings* (selections Book 2, 3)
- July 14** **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*, Epistle Dedicatory, Author’s Introduction, Part 1. 1-7, 11-13.

(also might be of interest: Excerpts from the Verse and Prose lives)

- July 19** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part 1. 14-16, Part 2, 17-21.
- July 21** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part 2. 26, 29-31; Part 3. 32-33, 36-37, 43; Part 4. 46;
Review and Conclusion
- July 26** **Locke**, *Second Treatise*, in *Political Writings*, Chapters 1-9
- July 28** Locke, *Second Treatise*, in *Political Writings*, Chapters 10-19
- August 2** Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, in *Political Writings*
And: where do we go from here? [**Second Essay Due**]
- August 4** **Review**
- Final Exam (date TBA) during Exam period**

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university. What the university calls "plagiarism", non-university institutions might call "fraud".

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chair; in most cases, the Chair passes the case on to the Dean.

A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. Penalties are assigned by the Chair, by the Dean or by the University of Toronto Tribunal.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author. **Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!**
4. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

Ignorance of the rules against plagiarism is not a defense; students are presumed to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Students are especially reminded that material taken from the web **must** be quoted and cited in the same manner as if it came from a book or printed article.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member or teaching assistant than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties can be **severe**, ranging from a mark of "0" for the assignment or test in question, **up to and including expulsion from the university**.

Some helpful websites for avoiding plagiarism:

'How to Use Sources and Avoid Plagiarism' - available at:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/home>

*** In the interest of proper citation, I credit Teresa Bejan's syllabus for much of the information found here about plagiarism, and for the organization of the course readings.**