Course Description

This course offers a general introduction to modern Western political thought. We will engage in a close reading of some of the most important texts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and, in the process, will explore three central themes in the political theory of that period. First, students will consider the meaning of history, including the questions of how ‘enlightenment’ and ‘modernity’ can be understood, and whether they represent progress or decline. Second, the course will examine the defining political values and ideals of modernity, with an emphasis on freedom. We will explore whether and how political communities might be emancipated through the reform of the institutions that govern them. Finally, we will think about the relations between those communities, asking whether modernity might create new opportunities for perpetual peace between states, or whether this idea is utopian, and exploring questions about colonialism, intervention and the difference between the West and “the rest”. We will attempt to understand the continued relevance of eighteenth and nineteenth century debates about history, freedom and war to contemporary political debates.

Required Texts

It is important to use the right translations of these works. Each student is expected in their assignments to refer to the editions listed here. Page references listed in the course schedule, below, refer to these editions.


**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be evaluated based on the following four criteria:

1. **Participation in tutorials (10% of the final grade).** You will be asked to sign up for your tutorial on Quercus. Details about this will be announced in class at the start of the course. Participation marks are awarded for active attention and class interaction and for evidence of familiarity with assigned readings.

2. **In-Class Test (25% of the final grade).** – A one-hour written exam will be administered halfway through the semester. The exam will cover the material covered to that point.
3. **Paper (30% of the final grade).** A detailed study of a particular aspect of the course topic. The course instructors will provide a list of possible subjects, relevant bibliographical inputs as well as further guidelines during the first part of the term. The paper should be no more than 10 pages double-spaced with 12-point font and one inch margins. Students are encouraged to meet with their TA or course instructors to discuss their term paper prior to submission. Students should upload their paper to Quercus.

4. **Final Exam (35% of the final grade).**

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Extensions:** No extensions will be granted unless students have acceptable reasons that are adequately documented, such as a medical emergency supported by an official UofT medical certificate. 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.

**Make-ups:** Students who miss the midterm test for medical reasons may, within one week of the missed test, submit a medical certificate to the instructors and request special consideration.

**Late Penalties:** Essays are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the date that they are due. Late papers will be penalized 5 percentage points per calendar day of lateness, weekends included. All late work should be submitted to the main desk of the Political Science Department. Students must make sure late submissions are signed and dated by department staff.

**Course Grades:** If you have concerns regarding an assignment mark you should present a detailed written explanation (approximately 1 page single spaced) of why you feel the grade is unjustified within two weeks of receiving the grade in question. Once an appeal is submitted, the entire assignment will be re-examined. The appeal process can result in no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

**Office Hours and Communication:** Office hours are TBA. We will endeavor to respond to emails within 48 hours. Email is for short clarification questions only. If you have concerns or questions that cannot be answered in a short response please see us during office hours. Please use your University of Toronto email address for all communication.

**Plagiarism:** 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 with principled objections to the use of Turnitin.com can make alternative arrangements with the professor. Such arrangements might include the requirement that all rough work is handed in with the paper or that the student include an annotated bibliography with the paper. Alternative arrangements will be decided upon in consultation with the U of T Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation. Issues of plagiarism are taken exceptionally seriously. Please ensure that you are familiar with the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. It can be found at: (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

**Quercus and E-mail**: All students should ensure that they are registered on the course on Quercus, once term has begun, as reading materials & course announcements will be posted electronically. You must make sure to regularly check your utoronto email account to make sure that you receive important email notices.

**Accessibility Needs**: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach us and/or the Accessibility Resource Centre as soon as possible.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

1. **Rousseau I (May 6th)**  
   *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality.*

2. **Rousseau II (May 8th)**  
   *The Social Contract*, Books 1 (chs 5-9), 2 (chs 3, 6-9), 3 (chs 1, 3-5, 12-18) and 4 (chs 1-3, 8).

3. **Rousseau III (May 13th)**  
   “Abstract of Monsieur the Abbé de Saint-Pierre’s Plan for Perpetual Peace”.
   “Judgment of the Plan for Perpetual Peace”.
   “The State of War”.
   “Fragments on War”.

4. **Kant I (May 15th)**  
   “What is Enlightenment?”.  
   “Idea for a Universal History with Cosmopolitan Purpose”.  
   “On the Common Saying: That Might be Right in Theory, but it is of No Use in Practice” (Part 2).

5. **Kant II (May 22nd)**  
   *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch.*

6. **Wollstonecraft (May 27th)**  
   *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (Introduction and chs. 1, 2, 3 and 9).
7. Burke I (May 29th)

8. Burke II (June 3rd)

9. Hegel I (June 5th)
*Elements of the Philosophy of Right*: “The Ethical Life” (ss. 142-157), “The Family” (ss. 158-169), and “The Civil Society” (ss. 182-188).

10. Hegel II (June 10th)
*Elements of the Philosophy of Right*: “The State and Constitutional Law” (ss. 257-278).

11. Hegel III (June 12th)

12. In-class test (June 17th)

13. Marx I (July 3rd)
*Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*, pp. 70-82.

14. Marx II (July 8th)
*The German Ideology* (chs. On Feuerbach).  
*A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (Preface).

15. Mill I (July 10th)
*On Liberty* (chs. 1-3)

16. Mill II (July 15th)
*Considerations on Representative Government* (ch. 3).  
“Civilization”  
“A Few Words on Non-Intervention”

18. Nietzsche I (July 17th)
*Twilight of Idols* (pp. 12-24)  
*On the Genealogy of Morality* (Preface and First Essay)

21. Nietzsche II (July 22nd)
*On the Genealogy of Morality* (Second Essay)

22. Nietzsche III (July 24th)
*On the Genealogy of Morality* (Third Essay)
23. Afghani (July 29th)
*Refutation of the Materialists*

24. Kang Youwei (July 31st)
Selections from Da Tong Shu

25. Chomin (August 7th)
*Discourse of Three Drunkards*