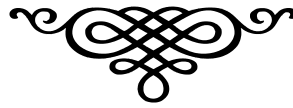


POL200Y1 Y – “Political Theory: Visions of the Good/Just Society”

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
Summer 2020



Instructor: Armend Mazreku, PhD student
Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 6-8 pm.
Office hours: Tuesdays 4-6
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Course Description & Purpose:

This course is intended to introduce undergraduate students to some of the most important texts in the Western tradition of political philosophy: Plato’s *Republic*, Aristotle’s *Politics*, Machiavelli’s *Prince*, Hobbes’s *Leviathan*, and Locke’s *Second Treatise*. Through a careful reading of these foundational texts in the history of political philosophy, we will explore major themes of both ancient and modern political thought, such as justice, politics, democracy, power, liberty, violence, war, peace, gender, obedience, sovereignty, state, society, etc. By the end of the course, students should be able to articulate an elaborate account of the key concepts theorized by these thinkers, acquire new knowledge of the historical and intellectual context of the period covered, and develop and improve their reflective, argumentative, and writing skills.

Required Readings:

The reading list for this course constitutes one of the major parts of the work for this course. Students are expected to keep up with the readings. Although there is a list of required books for this course, we will not read all of them in their entirety, but selected chapters or books. It is **strongly** recommended that you buy/consult the editions listed below; otherwise, you will run into differences in translation which could lead to certain confusion in class and group discussion.

- Plato. *The Republic*. Trans. G.M.A. Grube ed. C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1992.
- Aristotle. *Politics*. 2nd edition, Ed. C. Lord. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2013.
- Machiavelli. *Selected Political Writings*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.
- Hobbes. *Leviathan*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.
- Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980.

Course Requirements (further details on each assignment are noted below and will be discussed further in class):

Assignment	% of the grade	Max. Length in words	Deadline
First Term Essay	20%	2500	10/06/2020 (11:59 PM)

Second Term Essay	40%	4000	08/08/2020 (11:59 PM)
Take-Home Exam	30%	6 pages	22/08/2020 (6:00 PM)
Attendance and participation	10%	N/A	N/A

Essays:

You will be required to write one short essay (2500 words) on Plato or Aristotle (essay questions and guidelines will be posted on Quercus) and one longer comparative essay (4000 words that should be submitted on the due date). Students will be given a choice of topics for each essay. The topics and details of each essay assignment will be posted on Quercus. No outside sources or complementary readings allowed. The purpose of the essays is to demonstrate that you have read the texts carefully, that you have mastered the interpretive and analytical tools, and that you are able to develop a nuanced and rigorous interpretation of the books.

Take-Home Exam (30%):

A take-home exam will be distributed to you at 6 pm on August 19th for completion and submission by 6 pm on August 22nd. I recommend that you review course materials before receiving and writing the exam. There will be one question for the exam requiring you to compare and contrast at least **three thinkers** studied in the course, including at least **one from the first semester**.

Attendance & Participation (10%):

Attendance and participation are essential components of this course. The students will have the opportunity to ask questions about the readings and to critically engage with the arguments presented by the thinkers covered in the course. To get the full 10 points, students will be required to attend and participate in live-streaming lectures and tutorials, which will be delivered synchronously via Quercus.

Guidelines for Essays:

- Be sure to keep an extra hard copy of your papers in case the paper you submit is lost.
- Place a word count at the top of each paper just under your name. Penalties (2 points for each 100 words or fraction thereof) will be attached to papers that run over the prescribed word limit.
- Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day of lateness.
- You should familiarize yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense 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>. You must write your papers specifically for this class; you should not borrow material from another class; and you should not use another person's words or ideas without attribution, whether those words or ideas come from conversations, the internet, or printed materials. If you are in doubt about whether you are committing plagiarism, feel free to ask me or a discussion leader; but a good rule of thumb is that if you are wondering about this, you should cite a source.
- Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

- 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.

Writing Resources on Campus:

Students can find information about college writing centres at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. The home page for the website "Writing at the University of Toronto" is www.writing.utoronto.ca.

- More than 60 Advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice. A complete list of printable PDF versions are listed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links-for-students>.
- You may in particular want to consult the file "How Not to Plagiarize" and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources; these are listed in the section at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.
- The Writing Centre also hold regular workshops which may be of interest to you. More information on these workshops is available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>.
- Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. I particularly recommend the Communication Cafe meeting weekly at four different times and locations for the first five weeks of each term for practice with oral skills like class discussion and presentations. In addition, you may wish to take advantage of an online program called Reading eWriting that helps students engage course readings more effectively. line program that helps students engage course readings more effectively. You can also find further instructional advice files for students and for classroom instruction on this site. For more information, you can contact the ELL Coordinator Leora Freedman at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca

Appeals:

All appeals of graded assignments must be initiated no later than two weeks after their return. A written note (max. 1 p.), briefly but specifically explaining the grounds for appeal, must be submitted to the grader of the assignment. A grade appeal may result in the grade being raised, lowered, or left as is, depending on the results of the review. After two weeks, grade complaints will not be considered unless there are mitigating circumstances like a serious illness.

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to speak with me and/or the Access Ability Resource Centre as soon as possible. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Notice of Collection

The University of Toronto respects your privacy. The information on medical certificates is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering accommodations for academic purposes based on medical grounds. The department will maintain a record of all medical certificates received. At all

times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Course Schedule:

Summer 2020:

Lecture 1 (May 06) - Intro to the course

No required readings

Lecture 2 (May 11) - Plato (I)

Republic, Books I & II

Lecture 3 (May 13) - Plato (II)

Republic, Book III & IV

May 18, 2020: Victoria Day. University closed.

No lecture or required readings

Lecture 4 (May 20) - Plato (III)

Republic, Books V & VI

Lecture 5 (May 25) Plato (IV)

Republic, Books VI & VII

Lecture 6 (May 27) - Plato (V)

Republic, Books VIII, IX, and X

Lecture 7 (June 01) Aristotle

The Politics, Books I & II

Lecture 8 (June 03) Aristotle (II)

The Politics, Books III & IV

Lecture 9 (June 08) Aristotle (III)

The Politics, Books V & VI

Lecture 10 (June 10) Aristotle (IV)

The Politics, Books VII & VIII

NOTE: The first essay is due on 10/06/2020. Please submit through the drop- box folder on our Quercus page by 11:59 pm.

Lecture 11 (June 15) Machiavelli

The Prince, Chapters 1-15

Term Break: June 17 - July 01

Summer 2019: Term 2

Lecture 12 (July 06) Machiavelli (II)

The Prince, Chapters 16-26

Lecture 13 (July 08) Machiavelli (III)

The Discourses, Book I

Lecture 14 (July 13) Machiavelli (IV)

The Discourses, Books II & III

Lecture 15 (July 15) Hobbes

Leviathan, Chapters I-X

Lecture 16 (July 20) Hobbes (II)

Leviathan, Chapters XI - XV

Lecture 17 (July 22) Hobbes (III)

Leviathan, Chapters XVI - XXI

Lecture 18 (July 27) Hobbes (IV)

Leviathan, Chapters XXII - XXVI

Lecture 19 (July 29) Hobbes (V)

Chapters XXVII- XXXI; Part III (XLIII); Part IV (XLIV); Conclusion

Lecture 20 (August 03) Locke

Preface to *Two Treatises of Government*; Chapters I-IV

August 5, 2019: Civic holiday. University closed.

No lecture or required readings

NOTE: The second essay is due on 08/08/2019. Please submit through the drop-box folder on our Quercus page by 11:59 pm.

Lecture 21 (August 10) Locke (II)

Second Treatise of Government, Chapter V

Lecture 22 (August 12) Locke (III)

Second Treatise of Government, Chapters VI-XIII

Lecture 23 (August 17) Locke (IV)

Second Treatise of Government, Chapters XIV-XIX

Take-Home Exam Distribution (August 19). A take-home exam will be distributed to you at 6 pm on August 19th for completion and submission by 6 pm on August 22nd.

I. Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Academic Rights

You, as a student, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
 - Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
 - Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
 - Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
 - Receive all your assignments once graded.
 - View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.

- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.