Our theme this year will be the politics of struggle both external and internal. We will explore it through a careful reading of Hobbes’s *De Cive or On the Citizen* and Thucydides’ *War of the Athenians and the Peloponnesians*. My plan is to spend six to eight weeks on Hobbes (including part of the opening session) and 18 to 20 on Thucydides. If you were to point out helpfully that there are but 24 weeks in the academic year, not 26, I would retort that there is a specified make up day at the end of each semester, and I will not scruple to use them, because let’s face it, we all have things to make up for.

So 26 weeks it is. As Hobbes and Thucydides agree, the world is a rough place, where the strong do what they can and the weak do what they must, so live with it.

*A WARNING: CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE GRUELING AS THEY WILL RUN FOR THREE HOURS OR MORE. ALTHOUGH LISTED AS A 400-LEVEL COURSE, THIS COURSE IS A GRADUATE SEMINAR AND WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL.*

*OUR CLASS MOTTO IS THAT OF THE OREGON TRAIL: THE COWARDS NEVER STARTED, THE WEAK DIED ALONG THE WAY*

**COURSE ATTENDANCE (AND NON-ATTENDANCE).** Due to the unprecedented situation of the ongoing COVID pandemic, only students in SEC of the course will be expected to attend the course lectures in person, and only they will be permitted to do so. We deeply regret excluding the students in SEC 9101 (a majority of the class) from attending the lectures. Unfortunately there is no other way of enforcing physical distancing in the lecture hall, as both Provincial and University policy require us to do. Those students who attend the lectures remotely will enjoy the same opportunities for participating in class discussion as those present in person. Those unable to attend remotely, whether due to time zone incompatibility or because they lack reliable internet access during class hours, will be able to follow the course through recordings of the lectures, which will be posted on the course web site on Quercus after each session. They will also enjoy alternative opportunities for participation, TBA. UNFORTUNATELY AUDITORS WILL ENJOY ELECTRONIC ACCESS ONLY, HAPLESS VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING POLICIES.
NOTICE OF VIDEO RECORDING AND SHARING

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Recommended Editions (available at the University Textbook Store at the Koffler Centre at College and St. George)

Thomas Hobbes, *Man and Citizen. De Homine and De Cive*. Edited by Bernard Gert. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1991 [1972]. Also available from Hackett as an e-book. *De Cive* was composed in Latin; the anonymous English translation adopted by Gert was long thought to be by Hobbes himself. Recent scholarship (cf. the article by Noel Malcolm below) has questioned that attribution, not least because there are errors in it such as Hobbes is unlikely to have committed. Unfortunately the only more recent translation is also ridden with errors, so we may as well stick with the one in Gert; I will note significant errors as we come to them.


Hobbes’s translation, in its original version, minus Grene’s introduction, notes, and corrections, is available online through our library as it is from the Liberty Fund:


Recommended Secondary Reading

Due to the Covid 19 epidemic, the Library’s Course Reserve system has been suspended. It remains possible to obtain specific items from the Robarts collection on demand, to be
collected to be read elsewhere. Electronic resources remain available through the course’s Website on Quercus, as also through the Library Web Site. This year of all years, with our libraries shuttered by the epidemic, we should be thankful that so many of these sources are available on line.

Readings on Thucydides


These two volumes were the first fruits of the new Berlin/Bochum Thucydides Center (founded 2013) of which both Professor Balot and I are senior fellows. Each of us contributed a chapter to the first of the volumes.


Readings on Hobbes


**Course Assignments and Marking Scheme**

**POL 485Y (the undergraduate course).** Three essays of 2750 words each, due October 21, January 6, and March 17; a take-home exam (to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, March 19; due at 11 AM on Monday, March 22). The first assignment will be worth 20% of the final mark, each of the following two will be worth 25%, the take-home exam will be worth 25%, and there will be 5% for participation.

**POL 2027Y (the graduate course).** Three essays, on topics of the student's own devising, due October 28, January 13, and April 14; a take-home exam (to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, March 19; due at 11 AM on Monday, March 22); each assignment worth a fourth of the final mark. Essays must not exceed 5500 words and will not be read beyond the 5500th word. (There will be a much lower word limit for the take-home exam.)

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS ELECTRONICALLY, THEREBY SPARING CANADA’S FORESTS.**

N.B. In the graduate course as in the undergraduate one, no extensions will be granted on written work except for good cause. In keeping with Nietzsche’s theory of punishment, however, according to which every crime has its price and punishment was originally nothing more than an exaction of that price (cf. *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay), extensions will be readily available to those willing to purchase them. The price will be 3 points, plus 2 additional points per day beginning with the first, off your mark for that assignment. (If you are one day late you will lose 5 points; two days late, 7; etc.). This proviso does not apply to the take-home exam, which will not be accepted if late.

You are responsible for informing yourself of and abiding by the University's policies on plagiarism and other academic offenses. These are available on line at

**Mr. Orwin’s Office Hours**

TBA at Carr Hall 309 (926-1300, ext. 3277): I will hold “dual delivery” (i.e. simultaneously in person and on line) office hours, with privacy guaranteed both to actual visitors and virtual ones.