

POL200Y1: Visions of the Just/Good Society

Summer 2024, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto (St. George)

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Lecture Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 5:00-7:00

Office Hours: Joseph Dattilo– Monday 4-5 PM, SS3007

Kyumin Ju– Tuesday 12-1PM, SS3058

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Tutorial Sections: TBA

-PART I: COURSE DESCRIPTION-

This course introduces students to the subfield of political theory as a key component of political science. Political theory is characterized by its close scrutiny of concepts, ideas, language, and values. All ideas come from somewhere. By reading the representative works of six of the most influential thinkers in Western political thought, this class will show you how and when the ideas we take for granted as good or evil today originally emerged.

We will raise a number of fundamental questions about the nature of politics: Why do human beings live together? How should we organize our society? What is justice? What would a just or good society look like?

We ask that you keep an open mind as you learn to evaluate these texts on their own terms and consider their continuing relevance to politics today. Some of the texts you encounter will be challenging in more ways than one. Bear these words in mind as you read:

“The injustice and malice of the human species, great as they are, have not yet grown to such a point that they hinder most readers from praising a good book, notwithstanding the faults that may be in it.” -Francois Bayle

-PART II: COURSE READINGS & SCHEDULE-

2.1 Required Texts: We require that all students obtain the following texts. Further, we strongly recommend that you obtain the *exact* editions listed here, especially for those works translated into English. Different translations will say different things. If you use an unauthorized edition of the texts, you may run into discrepancies between what you read and what you hear in class. If any conflict between different versions of the texts arises, the version listed here prevails. If you

are mistaken because you rely on a different edition of the text, you will be held responsible for that mistake and graded accordingly.

All of the following texts are available for purchase at the UofT Bookstore. Most of them are also available *free of charge* from the UofT library system. We have arranged for course reserves through Robarts Library. We strongly recommend that students obtain *physical copies* of the assigned texts as we reserve the right to restrict access to electronics in class.

1. Macchiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1998)
2. Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1994)
3. Locke, John. *Second Treatise of Government*, ed. C.B. Macpherson (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1980); *A Letter on Concerning Toleration*, ed. James H. Tully (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1983)
4. Plato. *Republic*, trans. G.M.A Grube (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1992)
5. Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Robert C. Bartlett & Susan D Collins. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011)
6. Augustine of Hippo. *City of God* (abridged), trans. Gerald Walsh et al. ed. Vernon Bourke (New York: Image Press, 2014)

2.2 Lecture, Reading, & Assignment Schedule:

May 6: Introduction and Machiavelli I, *The Prince* Dedicatory Letter, Chp. 1-7 (30 pages)

May 8: Machiavelli II, *The Prince* Chp. 8-18 (38 pages)

May 13: Machiavelli III, *The Prince* Chp. 19-26 (34 pages) Assignment One Posted

May 15: Hobbes I, *Leviathan* Chp. I-X (44 Pages)

May 20: Victoria Day

May 22: Hobbes II, *Leviathan* Chp. X-XVI (56 Pages)

May 27: Hobbes III, *Leviathan* Chp. XVII-XXIII (54 Pages)

May 24: Assignment One Due

May 29: Hobbes IV, *Leviathan* Chp. XXIV-XXX (75 Pages)

May 31: Assignment One Returned

June 3: Locke I, *The Second Treatise*, Chp. 1-6 (35 pages)

June 5: Locke II, *The Second Treatise* Chp. 7-9; 16-18 (41 pages)

June 10: Locke III, *The Second Treatise* Chp. 19; *A Letter on Toleration* (52 pages)
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June 12: Plato I, *Republic* Bks. I-II, 357a-376c (50 pages)

June 17: Plato II, *Republic* Bks. III, 414e-417b; Book IV; Book V, 449a-466c (49 pages)

June 19-24: Midterm Exam Period

July 3: Plato III, *Republic* Bks. VI-VII (55 pages)

July 8: Plato IV, *Republic* Bks. VIII-IX 571a-580c (38 pages)

July 9: Midterm Grades Posted

July 10: Plato V, *Republic* Bk. IX 580d – X (40 pages)

July 15: Aristotle I, *Nicomachean Ethics* Bks. I-II (41 pages)

July 17: Aristotle II, *Nicomachean Ethics* Bks. III-IV (47 pages)

July 16: Assignment Two Released

July 22: Aristotle III, *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. V (25 Pages)

July 24: Aristotle IV, *Nicomachean Ethics* Bks. IX-X (47 Pages)

July 29: Augustine I, *City of God* Bks. I-III (51 Pages) **CONTENT WARNING: Suicide and Sexual Assault**

July 31: Augustine II, *City of God* Bks. IV-V (37 Pages)

August 4: Assignment Two Due

August 5: Civic Holiday

August 7: Augustine III, *City of God* Books XIV & XVIII (68 Pages)

August 12: Augustine IV, *City of God* XIX, Chp. 1-15; 19; 21; 24; 28; XX-XXII, Chp. 22; 30 (64 pages)

August 13: (Make Up Tuesday): Review & Conclusion

August 15-23: Final Exam Period

-PART III: COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE WEIGHTS-

3.1 Coursework: All students are expected to submit two written assignments, write an in-person midterm and final exam, and regularly attend and participate in tutorials. All essays will be submitted electronically through Quercus. We advise you to save copies of submitted work for the duration of the course so that you retain a record of it. If any technological disruptions occur when submitting to Quercus, please email the assignment to your TA with proof of the Quercus disruption. The final exam will be conducted in person. *Please note that no accommodations are made for students who choose to travel instead of attending class over the summer.*

| NAME | WEIGHT | DUE | LENGTH | Notes |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|------------|-------------------------|
| Writing Development Essay | 10% | May 24 | 1000 Words | |
| Midterm | 20% | TBD | N/A | In-person |
| Comparative Essay | 25% | August 4 | 2500 Words | Feedback by opt-in only |
| Final Exam | 30% | TBD | N/A | Cumulative, In-person |
| Participation | 15% | N/A | N/A | In-tutorial only |

3.2 Writing Development Essay: This assignment asks students to reflect upon a selected passage from a course text. It is designed to assess writing proficiency and to help students learn the fundamentals of academic prose construction and formatting. The writing development paper introduces established norms of academic writing, with special attention to clarity of expression, argumentative structure, and proper scholarly formatting. Students will be judged on both the quality of their writing and their analysis.

3.3 Midterm: The midterm exam covers all material from the first semester. Students will be required to answer short questions on multiple authors and to write an essay comparing two or more authors. The midterm exam is closed book and closed note, it will happen at a time and place to be determined by the Faculty of Arts and Science.

3.4 Comparative Essay: This essay entails a thorough comparison between two different thinkers on a pre-selected topic. The comparative essay will assess your ability to synthesize an argument from disparate texts. This will help you learn to draw logical connections and distinctions between texts that do not directly refer to each other and may seem unrelated. It will also help you build an understanding of how different intellectual positions relate to one another.

3.5 Final Exam: The final exam for this class will test textual knowledge and the ability of students to improvise arguments under time constraints. The exam is cumulative and will require students to have knowledge of all assigned texts. The exam will occur at a place and time determined by the Faculty of Arts and Science.

3.6 Participation: Attendance and participation in tutorials will account for 15% final grades. TAs will keep a regular record of student attendance as well as the extent and quality of verbal participation in tutorials. No extra-credit or alternative forms of assessment will substitute or supplement participation grades except by the express written approval of both instructors. Within the bounds of these conditions participation grades are the sole discretion of your TA.

-PART IV: GENERAL POLICIES-

4.1 Extensions: The instructors and TAs reserve the right to request documentation verifying the reason for an extension. Extension requests must contain a proposed deadline.

- (a) **Timeliness**: Extensions must be requested at least 24 hours before the assignment for which the extension is requested becomes due. Requests made after the deadline has passed will be summarily denied except in the case of an emergency.
- (b) **Length**: Requests for an extension of 6 or fewer days (including Accessibility Extensions) must be directed to your TA, not your course instructors. Extensions exceeding 6 days in length may only be requested from the course instructors, not your TAs; these requests will only be approved in documented and exceptional situations. Under no circumstances will open-ended extensions be granted.
- (c) **Policy**: Except insofar as the above rules apply, your TA's decision on whether or not to grant a short extension is final, and will not be overturned by the instructors.

4.2 Lateness and Length Penalties: The following penalties will be applied automatically to any papers that incur them. They will not be remitted except where the instructors find compelling and exceptional reasons to do so.

- (a) **Late Penalties**: Unexcused late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day, including weekends and holidays. Penalties will accrue immediately once the deadline has passed. Late penalties will not usually exceed 20%.
- (b) **Length Penalties**: Assignments exceeding the maximum length by more than 1 word will be penalized at 5%, with an extra 3% per 100 words or portion thereof. Citations, bibliographies, title pages, and page numbers do not count towards your word total; quotations do count.

4.3 Accessibility: This course strives to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. Please inform the instructors and your TA, in a timely manner, if you have any accessibility needs to ensure prompt accommodation. Accommodations normally require a student to be registered with Accessibility Services. Note that the accommodations you request must be enumerated in your Letter of Accommodation. Contact your Accessibility Services advisor if you require an accommodation not listed in your letter.

4.4 Grade Appeals: Students may request a review of their grade on any assignment in a timely manner. However, it must be noted that grade appeals can result in your grade being **lowered, raised, or remaining unchanged**. We will disregard all appeals that do not conform to the regulations below.

- (a) **Time Window**: Students *must wait at least 24 hours* after receiving their grade to file an appeal in order that they may review and understand the comments on their paper. However, appeals filed more than two weeks after their assignment is returned will be denied as a matter of course. Thus, there is a 13 day window to appeal your grade.
- (b) **TA Consultation**: Students must first meet and discuss, in civil terms, their assignment with the TA who graded their assignment before appealing. You must address the particular feedback your TA gave you on your assignment. TAs may have additional requirements at this stage of the appeals process. Consult with your TA to learn more.
- (c) **Instructor Involvement**: If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the first stage of the appeals process, you may forward your concerns to the instructors. You must submit a minimum ½-page written statement outlining the exact reason(s) for your appeal. This statement must respond to the specific feedback your TA gave you and provide valid grounds for your appeal. The only valid grounds for appeal are *content* related. **(Note that misunderstanding the essay instructions, your past performance at university, and whether you need a specific GPA to get into a program or law/grad school, and having “tried really hard” are not valid reasons for appeal.)**

4.5 Attendance: All students are expected to regularly attend lectures and the tutorial section in which they have enrolled. By choosing a tutorial section you are agreeing to attend the section at the time and location listed for the *entire* term. Please ensure that you will be able to attend your tutorial section for *both* semesters.

(a) **Lecture**: Lecture attendance is presumed. If the instructors determine that lecture attendance has fallen below acceptable levels, they reserve the right to take such measures as they deem necessary to ensure attendance. This includes, but is not limited to, removing material like lecture slides from Quercus and withholding materials used in lecture for out-of-class review. If you miss a lecture you are personally responsible for catching up. Lectures are in-person only; recording the lecture is not permitted.

(b) **Tutorial**: In-person tutorial attendance is mandatory and recorded. Your TA has discretion in determining if, when, and how many absences will be excused. Your TA has the right to require you to give a valid and documented reason (VOI form, AD form, etc.) to have an absence excused. Consult with your TA about their attendance policy. Your TA is **not** required to help you to make up for missed tutorials.

4.6 Communication: Important information regarding course affairs, including but not limited to assignments, lecture, readings, and announcements will be communicated to students via Quercus and, potentially, email. It is students' responsibility to regularly check—i.e. at least once a day—Quercus and their email. Contact the instructors via UofT Email, not Quercus. Likewise, the course instructors and TAs will do our utmost to respond to messages as soon as possible, but a response in less than *48 hours may not be possible during the week*. Emails sent during weekends, holidays, and outside of regular business hours will not receive an immediate answer. Students should check posted materials, including this syllabus, thoroughly before emailing the instructors with questions. **If you email asking for information that is contained in this syllabus, you will be directed to read the syllabus.** When emailing the course instructors or your TAs, please include your first name, your last name, the course number, and the tutorial in which you are enrolled.

-PART V: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY-

5.1 Original: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

5.2 Plagiarism & Concoction: This course will not tolerate any infractions to the University's Academic Integrity code. Plagiarism is the submission of another's work as one's own; concoction is the deliberate falsification of information. Instructors and TAs will handle cases of academic misconduct with the *utmost rigour and severity*. As such, all cases of suspected plagiarism and/or concoction will be reported to the office of Student Academic Integrity.

- (a) **Penalties:** Punishments for plagiarism, up to and including expulsion, are assessed at the University level. However, we wish to stress that plagiarism can ruin your academic career and preclude you from pursuing your chosen career path.
- (b) **Citations:** Failure to provide adequate citations in submitted work constitutes an academic offence. You are required to provide citations for *all* textual references, this includes paraphrases as well as quotations. You must cite the *exact* edition of the text that you have used. Failure on your part to understand these rules is not an excuse. As you are expected to have read this syllabus, you are expected to understand these rules.
- (c) **Sources:** No secondary sources are to be used for *any* assignments in this class. We will treat any such usage as accessing unauthorized aid. However, if you do use one, you are required to cite it. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Use of any AI tools to generate or translate text for assignments in this class will be construed as an academic offence.
- (d) **Group work:** We forbid all group work on essay assignments.

If you are unsure of how to avoid plagiarizing, please consult the following guide:

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

5.3 Generative AI: **The use of generative artificial intelligence (e.g., chatGPT) is not entirely prohibited at the University of Toronto if used carefully; however, it is strictly prohibited in this course. AI is not a legitimate source of information in this class; there is no valid reason to use it. Further, failing to cite a generative AI tool as a source when its output is used in assignments constitutes academic dishonesty. Generative artificial intelligence platforms typically produce fake citations and misinformation in their output. Using fake citations in an assignment also *constitutes academic dishonesty*. If we find evidence that generative AI was used in any assignment for this class, for any purpose, we will consider it an academic offence. No exceptions.**