

POL200Y1 Y - "Political Theory: Visions of the Good/Just Society"

University of Toronto  
Department of Political Science  
Fall/Winter 2022-23

Time: Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

Place: AH100



**Course instructor:** Armend Mazreku

**Office hours:** SS 3068, Thursday, 1:00-3:0 PM (or by appointment)

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**Teaching Assistants:**

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**Course Description and Goals**

This course examines some of the best-known texts, which have played a central role in the formation of the canon, or tradition, of Western political thought. Through a careful reading of Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Politics*, Machiavelli's *Prince*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, and Locke's *Second Treatise*, we will explore major themes of both ancient and modern political thought, such as justice, politics, democracy, tyranny, citizenship, power, liberty, equality, toleration, violence, war, peace, gender, obedience, sovereignty, state, property, etc. By the end of the course students should be able to articulate an elaborate account of the key concepts theorized by Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke, acquire new knowledge of the historical and intellectual context of the period covered, and develop their reflective, argumentative, and writing skills.

**Required Readings**

The reading list 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. It is **strongly** recommended that you buy/consult the editions listed below -- otherwise, we will run into differences in translation (which could lead to certain confusion) in class and group discussion. Note: The books are available at the university textbook store in the Koffler Student Centre.

- Plato, *Republic*. Trans. C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1992.
- Aristotle, *Politics*. Trans. C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1998.
- Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings*. Trans. David Wootton. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1994.
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Ed. Edwin Curley. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1994.
- Locke, *The Political Writings*. Ed. David Wootton. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2003.

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of the grade</b>	<b>Max. Length in words</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
First Term Essay	25%	2500	<b>3 December 2022</b> , at 5 p.m., to Quercus
Comparative Paper	35%	3500	<b>7 March 2023</b> , at 5 p.m., to Quercus
Exam	30%	N/A	TBA
Attendance and participation	10%	N/A	N/A

**Essays:**

You will be required to write one short essay (2500 words) on Plato or Aristotle and one longer comparative essay (3500 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. 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. Use of outside sources is strongly discouraged. However, if you do make use of such sources, they must be cited.

**Attendance & Participation:**

Class and tutorial attendance and participation are essential components of this course. Tutorial grade will depend upon attendance and participation. A full participation grade will be earned by students who have completed readings before tutorial and come prepared with their notes, the course text, and questions of their own. Students will be expected to engage respectfully with their peers and tutorial leader.

**Final Exam:**

A final examination during the examination period, 30% of the final mark. The exam will be administered online if necessary.

**Late Penalties and Accommodation:**

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 2% per day. For your sake and ours, please plan to submit your work on time. If you find yourself needing an extension, please reach out to your TA. We ask that you include (a) the reason for your request, and (b) a proposal for a new deadline. If you have additional documentation (like a doctor's note), please include that, too. **Note:** 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. At all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

### **Accessibility:**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a health consideration that may require accommodation, please feel free to speak with me and/or the Accessibility 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. Note:

### **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.

### **Ouriginal Policy:**

Essays should be submitted online through Quercus and will automatically be reviewed using Ouriginal. However, the use of Ouriginal is voluntary, and students who do not consent to the use of it may choose to submit their essays directly to the instructor at [armend.mazreku@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:armend.mazreku@mail.utoronto.ca). In cases where students choose not to use Ouriginal, they will be required to submit all rough work, drafts, and notes at time of submission.

Official U of T statement on Ouriginal: “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 web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).”

### **Note on Plagiarism:**

You should familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on plagiarism. **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense** and will be dealt with accordingly. 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. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.

### **Copyright:**

Course materials belong to your instructor, and are protected by copyright. Do not copy or share any course or student materials without the explicit permission of the instructor.

## Course Schedule

### FALL TERM

14 September 2022: Introductory Lecture - What is Political Theory?

*No Readings*

21 September 2022: Plato, *Republic*, Books 1-2

28 September 2022: Plato, *Republic*, Books 3-4

5 October 2022: Plato, *Republic*, Books 5-6

12 October 2022: Plato, *Republic*, Books 7-8

19 October 2022: Plato, *Republic*, Books 8-10

26 October 2022: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 1-2

2 November 2022: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 3-4

### **9 November 2022 – FALL READING WEEK (NO CLASS)**

16 November 2022: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 5-6

23 November 2022: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 7-8

30 November 2022: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 1-8

7 December 2022: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 9-18

### 2023 WINTER SESSION

11 January 2023: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 19-26

18 January 2023: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, Book 1

25 January 2023: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, Books 2-3 (Note: Students are not required to read Book 3)

1 February 2023: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 1-10

8 February 2023: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 11-20

15 February 2023: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 21-30

**22 February 2023: READING WEEK (NO CLASS)**

1 March 2023: Review and Conclusion + Locke

8 March 2023: Locke, *Second Treatise*, in *The Political Writings*, Chapters 1-4

15 March 2023: Locke, *Second Treatise*, in *The Political Writings*, Chapters 5-13

22 March 2023: Locke, *Second Treatise*, in *The Political Writings*, Chapters 14-19

29 March 2023: Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, in *The Political Writings*.

5 April 2023: Review Session

**Final Exam:** TBA

## 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.

### **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](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca).

- More than 60 Advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available at [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice](http://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](http://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](mailto:leora.freedman@utoronto.ca)