

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POLITICAL SCIENCE 485HS/2027HS

TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT II

SPRING TERM 2024

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The theme of the course is tyranny as a way of life, or more precisely, the comparison between two ways of life, that of tyranny and that of philosophy or wisdom. In the right hands (and there could be no better ones than those of Leo Strauss and Alexandre Kojève) these questions raise the further ones of the character of modern politics and its transformation of the relationship of theory and practice (and for that matter of philosophy and wisdom). So *On Tyranny* in its expanded edition offers a rare example of a fundamental (if long neglected) document of classical wisdom commented upon by two titans of modern thought, one of whom sustains the classical position and the other his own distinctive brand of Hegelianism.

## COURSE READINGS

### *Primary Readings*

Strauss, Leo. *On Tyranny*, Revised and expanded edition, including the Strauss-Kojève correspondence. Edited by Victor Gourevitch and Michael S. Roth. Third expanded and corrected edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013 [1999].

<https://books-scholarsportal-info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks2/ucpboks/2013-10-17/1/9780226033525#page=12> Also available at the Textbook Store: purchase of the hard copy is highly recommended for better comprehension of the material.

This volume includes Xenophon's *Hiero, or on Tyranny*, translated by Marvin Kendrick and revised by Seth Benardete; Strauss's commentary, and the Strauss-Kojève debate as well as their relevant correspondence, in the 1999 revision of the original 1991 edition. The editors' introduction is extremely useful.

### *Required Secondary Readings, on Course Reserve at Robarts.*

Burns, Timothy W., and Bryan-Paul Frost, ed., *Philosophy, history, and tyranny: Reexamining the Debate between Leo Strauss and Alexandre Kojève*

Albany: State University of New York Press, 2016. Available at the Textbook Store.

Pangle, Lorraine Smith. 2018. "The Radicalness of Strauss's *On Tyranny*." *Interpretation* 45.1 (2018), 49–66.

***Required Secondary Readings, available on line.***

Gourevitch, Victor. "Philosophy and Politics." *Review of Metaphysics* 22.1&2 (1968), 58-84, 281-328.

Part 1: <http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/221300>

Part 2: <http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/221301>

Grant, George. "Tyranny and Wisdom: A Comment on the Controversy Between Leo Strauss and Alexandre Kojève." *Social Research* 31.1 (1964), 45-72.

<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/221302>

***Recommended Secondary Readings, available on course reserve at Robarts or on line.***

Chiaromonte, Nicola. "On Modern Tyranny. A Critique of Western Intellectuals." *Dissent*, March-April 1969, 137-150. Reprinted in Chiaromonte, *The Worm of Consciousness and Other Essays*, ed. Miriam Chiaromonte. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1977. AC45C525

Nichols, James H., Jr. *Alexandre Kojève: Wisdom at the End of History*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Pippin, Robert B. "Being, Time, and Politics: The Strauss-Kojève Debate." *History and Theory*, 1993, 138-161. Reprinted in Pippin, *Idealism as Modernism*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997. <http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/221298>

Roth, Michael S. "Natural Right and the End of History: Leo Strauss and Alexandre Kojève." *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale* 96.3 (1991), 407–422.

Sebell, Dustin. "Ancient versus Modern Philosophy: The Socratic Refutations and the Napoleonic Strategy in Leo Strauss's 'Restatement'." *The Political Science Reviewer* 45.2 (2021), 355–387.

Tarcov, Nathan S. "Preface to the Japanese Translation of *On Tyranny*."

<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/221305>

Voegelin, Eric. "On Tyranny." *The Review of Politics* 11.2 (1949), 241-244. <http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/221299>

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKING SCHEME**

**POL 485HS (the undergraduate course).** Two essays of 1375 words due Friday, February 6; and Friday, March 1, and a third essay of 2750 words due Friday, March 29. The first two essays will each be worth 20% of the final mark, and the third will be worth 50%. There will be a participation component of 15%.

**POL 2027HS (the graduate course).** One essay of 2000 words due Friday, February 6; two of 3000 words due Friday, March 1 and Friday, April 12. The first two essays will each be worth 20% of the final mark, and the third will be worth 50%.

**In each of your essays you must remain within the prescribed word limit; surplus words will go unread.**

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS ELECTRONICALLY VIA QUERCUS 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 at the Department of Political Science or from the instructor. ANY USE OF CHATBOT GI IN THIS COURSE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.**

### **MR ORWIN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Wednesdays, from 2:30 to 4:30 in Carr Hall 309 or by appointment.