POL320Y1Y – Modern Political Thought
University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
Summer 2021

Instructor: Amanda Arulanandam, Ph.D. Candidate; Eugenia Blain, Ph.D. Candidate
Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm
Office Hours: TBA
E-mail: amanda.arulanandam@mail.utoronto.ca; eugenia.yupanquiaurich@mail.utoronto.ca
Teaching Assistants: Andrew Young, andrewj.young@mail.utoronto.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to key political thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries through careful reading and analysis of their works. We focus on the theoretical foundations of the modern liberal democratic nation-state, including the still influential critiques that emerged alongside it. We will attempt to answer the following questions: What is “modernity”? What is “freedom”? What is “enlightenment”? Can politics be “enlightened”? Is the history of modernity one of progress, decline, or both? Can the aspirations of justice, freedom, equality, and peace be actualized, or is this idea utopian? This course is reading-intensive, which means that students are expected to read numerous pages of difficult philosophical texts in short periods of time. The course also places emphasis on note-taking, interpretation, and writing skills. By the end of the course, diligent students will have developed a university-level understanding of the modern political theories that have shaped the traditions of the Western world.

REQUIRED TEXTS


The texts will be available at the university bookstore in the Koffler Student Centre. These texts are also available as e-books at the publishers’ websites. Make sure to acquire the correct edition and that the e-books have page numbers. To facilitate teaching and grading, other editions will not be accepted.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Essay</td>
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<td>Second Essay</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation in Tutorials</td>
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ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

1. First Essay
   a. Comparative essay, topics will be provided on Quercus
   b. 1500-2000 Words
   c. Due June 28th
2. Second Essay
   a. Comparative essay, topics will be provided on Quercus
   b. 2500-3000 Words
   c. Due July 28th
3. Final Exam
   a. Take home exam, open book
   b. Date TBA
4. Tutorials
   a. Attendance and active participation

COURSE GUIDELINES

1. Lectures
   a. We will be using Zoom for our lectures. The Zoom meeting info is available on Quercus. Please note that we will upload a recording of the lecture, in order to accommodate students who may have internet issues. However, we highly recommend that you attend lectures ‘live’, so that you are able to engage with the instructor and ask questions. Furthermore, each recording will only be available for one week.
b. **Classroom Etiquette:** In order to create a respectful classroom environment, please be considerate of others. It is important that you try to arrive on time, have all your necessary materials, put away distractions, and give your full attention to the class. Rude, derogatory, and threatening remarks will not be tolerated. If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please let us know.

c. **Study Questions:** We will provide you with study questions to help guide your readings. They will be posted on Quercus approximately one week before the relevant lecture.

2. **Assignments**
   a. No extensions or make-ups will be granted on any assignment without completion of the Absence Declaration Form. Information regarding the form can be found here: [https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/covid19-artsci-student-faqs#fw2021-absence-declaration-accordion-5](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/covid19-artsci-student-faqs#fw2021-absence-declaration-accordion-5). If you require an extension, please inform your TA and complete the form as soon as possible.
   b. Unexcused late essays will be penalized 3% plus 2% per calendar day of lateness.
   c. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the university’s policy on plagiarism, which will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that may cost you a course or even your career as student. Our policy is zero-tolerance. Please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism on Quercus or visit [https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/). When it comes to plagiarism, simply DON’T DO IT. “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”. Turnitin will flag suspicious assignments and teacher assistants have a keen eye to detect academic misconduct. If you are not sure that you are committing plagiarism, ask your T.A. or the instructor for clarification.
   d. Appeals must be accompanied by a half-page explanation that states the reasons why you are contesting the grade. Appeals must be submitted to the instructor no later than two weeks after you received your graded assignment. Please note that a grade appeal may result in a higher or lower grade, or the grade may not change. After two weeks, a grade re-evaluation will not be considered without good cause and formal documentation.

3. **Writing Resources:**
   - Writing Centers: [http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/](http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/)
   - Advice on Academic Writing: [https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/](https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/)
   - Citation Guide: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html)

4. **Student Resources**
   a. **Accessibility Services:** If you have an accessibility need, contact accessibility services as soon as possible:
      - Website: [https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/](https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/).
- E-mail: (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca)
- Phone: (416-978-8060).

b. **Health, Mental Health and Crisis Resources:** If you are in crisis, please contact 911. For less immediate needs, you may find the following resources helpful:
- U of T Crisis Resources: https://safety.utoronto.ca/
- U of T Health and Wellness Center: https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc
- U of T Mental Health Resources: https://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/
- Good2Talk (Crisis Helpline): 1-866-925-5454

5. If you are experiencing personal challenges that may affect your ability to succeed in this course, please speak to your T.A. or instructor or academic advisor as soon as possible. We will do what we can to support you.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
It is imperative that you come prepared for lectures and tutorials. Read the assigned readings before the lecture. Study questions will be posted on Quercus to help you navigate the readings. Attentive reading that aims at answering the study questions is key to success in the course.

**Lecture 1 – May 3 – Rousseau**
Read: “Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men”, Preface and Part 1

**Lecture 2 – May 5 – Rousseau**
Read: “Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men”, Part 2

**Lecture 3 – May 10 – Rousseau**
Read: “The Social Contract”, Books 1 and 2

**Lecture 4 – May 12 – Rousseau**
Read: “The Social Contract”, Books 3 and 4

**Lecture 5 – May 17 – Kant**
Read: “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (pp. 54-60); “On the Common Saying: ‘This may be true in theory, but it does not apply in practice’” (pp. 61-72).

**Lecture 6 – May 19 – Kant**
Read: “On the Common Saying: ‘This may be true in theory, but it does not apply in practice’” (pp. 73-92); “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose” (pp. 41-53)

**May 24 – Victoria Day (no lecture)**

**Lecture 7 – May 26 – Burke**
Read: “Reflections on the Revolution in France”, pp. 3-63, 75-97, 245-250
Lecture 8 – May 31 – Wollstonecraft
Read: “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”, Introduction, Ch. 1-4, 6, 9, 12

Lecture 9 – June 2 – Mill
Read: “On the Subjection of Women”, Ch. 1, 2, 4

Lecture 10 – June 7 – Mill
Read: “On Liberty”, Ch. 1-4

Lecture 11 – June 9 – Tocqueville
Read: “Democracy in America”
- Volume 1, Part 1, Ch. 4-5 (pp. 53-93), 7 (pp. 100-104), 8 (partial – pp. 105-119)
- Volume 1, Part 2, Ch. 1 (pp. 165-166), 3-4 (pp. 172-186), 6 (pp. 220-235)

Lecture 12 – June 14 – Tocqueville
Read: “Democracy in America”
- Volume 1, Part 2, Ch. 7-8 (pp. 235-258), 9 (partial – pp. 264-292), 10 (partial – pp. 302-348)

*** Summer Break (no lectures, no tutorials) ***

Lecture 13 – July 5 – Tocqueville
Read: “Democracy in America”
- Volume 2, Part 2, Ch. 1-20 (pp. 479-532)
- Volume 2, Part 3, Ch. 8-13 (pp. 558-578)

Lecture 14 – July 7 – Tocqueville
Read: “Democracy in America”
- Volume 1, Part 2, Ch. 10 (partial – pp. 348-384)
- Volume 2, Part 3, Ch. 21-26 (pp. 606-635)
- Volume 2, Part 4, Ch. 6-8, (pp. 661-676)

Lecture 15 – July 12 – Hegel
Read: Preface and Introduction (pp. 9-64)

Lecture 16 – July 14 – Hegel
Read: Part I – Abstract Right (§§34-77)

Lecture 17 – July 19 – Hegel
Read: Part II – Morality (§§105-120, §129, §132, §135, §137, §141)

Lecture 18 – July 21 – Hegel
Lecture 19 – July 26 – Marx
Read: “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right: Introduction” (pp.53-65) and “On the Jewish Question” (pp. 26-52)

Lecture 20 – July 28 – Marx
Read: “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (pp.66-93), “Theses on Feuerbach” (pp. 143-145), and “The German Ideology: Part I” (pp. 146-200)

August 2 – Civic Day Holiday (no lecture)

Lecture 21 – August 4 – Marx
Read: “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (pp. 469-500)

Lecture 22 – August 9 – Nietzsche
Read: Preface and First Essay (pp. 3-36)

Lecture 23 – August 11 – Nietzsche
Read: Second Essay (pp. 36-68)

Lecture 24 – August 16 – Nietzsche
Read: Third Essay (pp. 68-123)