

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4311A

POLITICAL THEORIES OF DEMOCRACY AND EMPIRE

Mondays 2:35 - 5:25 pm. Confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office hours: Tuesday 12 - 3 pm

Is it possible to combine a free self-governing society at home with imperialism abroad without ultimately endangering the democracy at home? This dilemma, the theme of this course, has been experienced in political life from ancient times to the present. As we will see in works by Thucydides, Sophocles and Plato, Athenian democracy attempted to combine freedom at home and empire abroad and was eventually torn apart by the contradiction during its long military conflict with Sparta. Another theme we will consider is the difference between taking a “realist” approach to the study of politics and international affairs based on material self-interest and power-seeking — whose ancient exponents were Thucydides and the Sophists, followed by its modern exponents Machiavelli and Hobbes — and studying politics and international relations according to political philosophy and the search for the transcendent truth about justice, exemplified by Plato. A third theme we will explore through these works is the character and psychology of tyranny and political ambition and the dangers they pose to a just political community.

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COURSE FORMAT: In person

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The purpose of this course in relation to students’ program of study is to familiarize them with the history of political ideas, and should prove useful to students of Political Science, History and Philosophy, particularly to students specializing in Political Theory and the historical dimension of International Relations.

This course is not a formal prerequisite for specific other courses, but should prove useful for students interested in the specializations

mentioned above. It should also prove useful for students applying to graduate programs in Political Science with a specialization in Political Theory.

I expect students to acquire a basic familiarity with the themes considered in the course and the texts that are connected to those themes in the course outline.

In order to pass this course, students must attend class regularly, unless they have a valid excuse to be absent. It is not possible to contribute to the seminar discussion and to write a successful term paper unless one is present every week in class. In addition to the presentations students are asked to make on an equally rotating basis, where they will lead the class in the discussion of that week's readings, all students should be prepared to contribute to the group discussion as it unfolds every week.

REQUIREMENTS AND BASIS OF GRADING:

- a) Students will make presentations on an equally rotating basis on the readings assigned for each class. There is no written component. The aim is to lead the seminar group through the readings and generate a collective discussion of them. Worth 50% of grade.
- b) A term paper on the textual exegesis of one or more of the assigned readings. Suggested topics will be provided. You are welcome to use your seminar presentation as a dry run for the term paper, but you are also free to write on something else entirely. Length: For 4000-level students: 15 thesis pages double-spaced typed. For 5000-level students: 20 thesis pages double-spaced typed. Due on the last day of classes, December 6. Worth 50% of grade.

TEXTS:

On order at Book Store. I will provide the PDF on line link to the Xenophon reading. All of these texts are usually available as PDFs on line, so you are free to exercise that option.

- Thucydides. Justice, Power and Human nature Hackett- 9780872201682
- Sophocles Oedipus Tyrannus Hackett 9780872204935

- Plato Gorgias Hackett 9780872200166
- Plato Republic Hackett 9780872201361
- Machiavelli. The Prince. Hackett. 9780872203174
- Machiavelli. Discourses. University of Chicago. 9780226500362

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Week 1. Sept. 9. Introductory Remarks.

Week 2. Sept. 16. Thucydides. THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR. pgs. 1-30, 39-58, 89-93, 102-108, 112-123, 136-137, 152-153d.

NB: These are not the section numbers in the text by Thucydides. They are page numbers of the abridgment by Woodruff.

Week 3. Sept. 23. Sophocles. OEDIPUS TYRANNUS.

Week 4. Sept. 30. Diehl's FRAGMENTS OF THE PRE-SOCRATICS (selections. Handout). Plato. GORGIAS. 447-481. NB: These are not page numbers, but the Stephanus numbers in the margins.

Week 5. Oct. 7. Plato. GORGIAS. 481-end.

THANKSGIVING AND FALL BREAK

Week 6. Oct. 28. Plato. REPUBLIC. Books 1

Week 7. Nov. 4. Plato. REPUBLIC. Books 3-5.

Week 8. Nov 11. Plato. REPUBLIC. Books 6-8.

Week 9. Nov. 18. Plato. REPUBLIC. Books 9-10.

Week 10. Nov. 25. Machiavelli. THE PRINCE.

Week 11. Dec. 2. Machiavelli. THE DISCOURSES Book One.

Week 12. Dec. 6. Concluding Remarks.

Appendix

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- ***Carleton Resources:***

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

- ***Off Campus Resources:***

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

Deferred final exams, which must be applied for at the RO, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. The course outline must stipulate any minimum standards for good standing that a student must meet to be entitled to write a deferred final exam.

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic

consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the [Self-Declaration form](#) to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

Pregnancy accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation, or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more information, please [click here](#).

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, websites, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question or a final grade of "F" for the course. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit.

If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. The departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4

77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

Carleton Political Science Society

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.