

PSCI 226

Modern Political Thought

Winter 2021

Lectures posted Tuesdays & Thursdays

Instructor: Dr. Anna Drake

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(Virtual) Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Policy: The easiest way to contact me is via email. I will aim to respond within 24 hours (except during weekends and holidays, when I do not answer work email), but given we're in the middle of a pandemic this may not always be possible.

Course Description: This course surveys some of the key theorists and ideas in modern political thought. This class offers an introduction to a selection of Western texts and, through lectures and tutorials, undertakes a critical analysis of the ideas and concepts within (and between) them. The purpose of this class is not to offer an historical account of the authors, but rather to engage with philosophical ideas and concepts. In engaging in this analysis we will look at the social and political context that informed the works, as well as the implications these ideas have today. Key themes include power, freedom, equality, justice, dissent, the nature of citizenship, and inclusion/exclusion.

Pre-Requisites: PSCI 101 or 225

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the problems each theorist investigates, as well as identify their main arguments and key concepts
- Think critically about the different arguments and concepts and identify areas of agreement and contention between the different theorists
- Develop critical analytical skills, both written and verbally
 - Develop the ability to read and process political theory
 - Effectively convey understanding of different concepts
 - Develop their own arguments, and be able to support these with evidence

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity and Discipline

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [Office of Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievances and Appeals

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- **MATES:** one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- **Good2Talk:** Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- **Here 24/7:** Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME:** set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Texts:

Texts:

All books are available as e-copies. You can purchase the Oxford University Press editions (listed below) either here: <https://www.redshelf.com/> or here: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/>

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Oxford University Press, 2008

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Oxford University Press, 2016

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Oxford University Press, 2009

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Political Economy and The Social Contract*, Oxford University Press, 2008

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays*, Oxford University Press, 2008

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, Oxford University Press, 2008

Other editions—provided they are unabridged—are also acceptable. These titles are also available (for free!!) on the Project Gutenberg site: <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Additionally, the other required text (an excerpt of a much larger work) is available on LEARN:

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Estranged Labor” in *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*

All texts are required readings.

Format

This is a lecture course. I will upload two lectures to LEARN each week (on Tuesday and Thursday mornings). Each lecture will be broken into 4-5 modules of approximately 15 minutes each (not exceeding 1h20mins).

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assignment:	Worth:	Due:
Course engagement & analysis (x7)	40%	Throughout term (dates on LEARN)
Essay Exam #1	30%	Thursday February 25 th
Essay Exam #2	30%	Monday April 19 th

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Course engagement and analysis:

The aims of this assignment are 1) to keep you engaged in the course, 2) to provide me with a sense of how you’re processing the material and to respond as the course develops, and 3) for you to demonstrate your knowledge via substantive analysis of and engagement with the course material. Five of these assignments deal with course content: in each of these assignments I will set out several questions (approximately 4) that I will expect you to engage with. These questions will appear following our last lecture on each theorist. Assignments will be approx. 1 page, single-spaced and you will have 1 week to complete and upload them to LEARN. Two of the course engagement assignments will be simple course feedback questions that will enable me to check in and to make any adjustments to course delivery as we go: these two (non- theorist related) questions will count for half the value of a regular substantive question assignment (i.e.: together these two feedback questions will count for one grade entry for the course engagement analysis assignment, and are an easy way to boost your grade).

Tests & Examinations:

Essay exams:

There will be 2 essay exams: one due on **Thursday February 25th** at 5pm and **Monday April 19th** at 5pm. Each one will consist of two essay questions, which you'll receive one week before the exam is due and will upload to the LEARN dropbox when complete. Questions will ask you to engage with and apply course material (both assigned readings and lecture material). I will discuss the essay exams further in-class. The second essay exam focuses on material assigned & taught after the first essay exam (although students may have the option of drawing from material taught in the first half of the course). Essay exams will have a 2000 word limit.

Late Policy:

We are in the middle of a global pandemic and I will not penalize students for late assignments. This is (another) tough year: take care of yourselves (and each other). For assignments that are time-sensitive (the exam essays), if you're unable to complete them on time then we can discuss an alternative exam essay to be submitted later. If you're able to, please do hand things in on time: this avoids work piling up and lets me give you feedback when it's most useful. Please note the University does have a deadline for me submitting grades at the end of the term, so you still need to hand things in ☺

Online Support & Services:

The student success office and the writing centre offer a number of online workshops and one-on-one sessions. Counselling services offers a variety of free resources, including coping skills workshops and crisis support.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/>

<https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/>

<https://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services/node/1>

<https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/mental-health-services>

Care obligations:

If you have care obligations when you are participating in the course (whether attending virtual office hours or posting video questions) please know there are no penalties or judgment for kids, animals, etc. onscreen or making noise in the background.

Schedule:

Week 1: (January 11th)

W1L1:

Introduction (no assigned readings)

W1L2:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Chapter 13

Week 2: (January 18th)

W2L1:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Chapters 14-17

W2L2:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Chapters 18-22

Week 3: (January 25th)

W3L1:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Chapters 23-26

W3L2:

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: Chapters 1-4

Week 4: (February 1st)

W4L1:

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: Chapters 5-6

W4L2:

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: Chapters 7-9

Week 5: (February 8th)

W5L1:

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: Chapters 10-13

W5L2:

No assigned readings: Review and Q&A slides posted.

Reading Week: February 15th-19th

Week 6: (February 22nd)

W6L1:

No assigned readings: Time to prepare for & write Essay Exam # 1

W6L2:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*: Preface and Part 1

Week 7: (March 1st)

W7L1:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*: Part 2

W7L2:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*: Book 1

Week 8: (March 8th)

W8L1:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*: Book 2

W8L2:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*: Chapter 1-Chapter 2, page 51 (at the break in paragraphs)

Week 9: (March 15th; shortened week: 15th & 16th are break days)

W9L1:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*: Chapter 2, page 51-Chapter 3

W9L2:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*: Chapter 4

Week 10: (March 22nd)

W10L1:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*: Chapter 5

W10L2:

Karl Marx, “Estranged Labor” in *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*

Week 11: (March 29th)

W11L1:

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*: Sections 1 & 2

W11L2:

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*: Sections 3 & 4

Week 12: (April 5th)

W12L1:

No assigned readings: Review and Q&A slides posted.

W12L2

No assigned readings: Time to prepare for & write Essay Exam # 2