



DALHOUSIE 1818
UNIVERSITY 2018

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2410 PHILOSOPHY 2210

CRISIS AND CONSENT:
FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT I
1651-1762



FALL TERM 2018

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Course Summary

Political Science 2410 is, along with Political Science 2420, an introduction to political philosophy, and to the development of moral and conceptual ideas underlying modern politics. Both classes will examine some of the most important normative issues in the history of modern western political thought, and will investigate how these questions underlie most of today's political debates. Specifically, they will trace the development of modern liberalism, the challenges to liberalism in the past three and a half centuries, and the roots of the contemporary contradictions within modern liberal thought.

Outcomes Map

Ultimate learning objectives

- To understand what is necessary for the formation of a public capable of democratic self-governance
- To be able to identify the constructive and destructive dynamics underlying political governance
- To be able to articulate thoughtful, reflective, and constructive ideas in response to challenges facing the governance of contemporary polities



Mediating learning objectives

- To be able to show the relevance of political concepts discussed by key political theorists to current events and analyses
- To be able to approach complex normative discussions about power and morality in a rigorous, critical, and systematic manner



Foundational learning objectives

- To understand the key concepts and ideas underlying major works of early modern political thought
- To be able to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented by these theorists
- To grasp how, and why, specific political ideas developed as they did
- To write clearly and persuasively
- To think in an ordered and logical manner

Required Texts

1. **Primary readings** will be posted on the class website. For those who would like a hard copy/textbook compilation, you can purchase **Stephen Cahn, ed. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*** from Amazon.ca or other online bookstores
2. For **secondary readings**, the text is **David Boucher & Paul Kelly, eds. *Political Thinkers, 3rd ed.***, available for purchase at the university bookstore.



Evaluation

- **Tests**
 - Quiz #1 (15%): September 24th
 - Quiz #2 (15%): November 5th
 - Final Exam: scheduled exam period in December – **NO EXCEPTIONS** (40%)
- **Essays**
 - Research Paper: due November 28th – see “Assignments” folder on Brightspace (30%)

Grades for each assignment, as well as final grades, will be available on Brightspace. Keep in mind you are not only being graded on the content of your assignments, but also on your ability to follow instruction.

For fall term classes, the last day to drop fall term courses with no financial implications is September 18; the last date to drop a fall-term class without a W appearing on the transcript is October 1; and the last day to drop a fall-term class with a W is October 30.

The Commonwealth Prize

The Commonwealth Prize for Political Thought is a **cash prize** that will be awarded to the student who has the highest cumulative grade this year in both POLI 2410/PHIL 2210 and POLI 2420/PHIL 2220.

LECTURE OUTLINE

Note: dates may vary slightly from those listed below

A. INTRODUCTION (Sept 5)

Readings for this unit:

- Boucher & Kelly (Introduction)

Unit topics:

- Why study the history of political thought?
- Is there a “right” way to study the history of political thought?

B. RIGHTS AND THE INDIVIDUAL

HOBBS (Sept 10-19)

Readings for this unit:

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* **Pt I:** ch 1-3, 6, 10-15; **Pt II:** Ch.17-21, 29
- Boucher & Kelly (Hobbes)

Unit topics:

1. Life & times: a society fragmented by political differences
2. Philosophical foundations: what should we believe, and what is fake news?
3. Human nature: can we really trust anyone? should we?
4. Political society: if we can't trust anyone, how is social life possible?
5. Liberty v. authority: is it more important to have the liberty to do things, or to have the security to enjoy the things you have

September 24th: Quiz #1

September 26th: Workshop on researching political thought (optional).

Location is **Killam Library 2902** - limited spaces available; please email me directly at k.fierlbeck@dal.ca if you are interested.

Topics:

- a. Finding sources for your research paper
- b. Evaluating sources
- c. Citation management (if time permits)

LOCKE (Oct 1-10)

Readings for this unit:

- John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government* (ch. 1-12, 18-19) and *Letter Concerning Toleration* (all)
- Boucher & Kelly (Locke)

Unit topics:

1. Life & times: living under an autocrat
2. What makes a regime a *legitimate* one?
3. Do the rich deserve their wealth? how is wealth related to politics, anyway?
4. Draining the swamp: when are we allowed to impeach the bastard?

C. THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT

HUME (Oct 15-22)

Readings for this unit:

- David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Pt II (“Of justice and injustice”), sections I-VII and *Of the Original Contract* (all)
- Boucher & Kelly (Hume)

Unit topics:

1. Life & times: how the nature of industrial society changes political debate
2. What role should reason play in politics?
3. Why are we obliged to obey authority (especially if those in charge just make our life miserable)?

SMITH (Oct 24-31)

Readings for this unit:

- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, Bk I, ch 1-3, 8; Bk III, ch 4; Bk IV, ch 1, Parts II and III; ch 2, Part II

Unit topics:

1. Life & times: no, Smith wasn’t just an economist
2. Did Smith invent capitalism? (spoiler: sort of, although not really)
3. Was Smith really a subversive left-winger?

November 5th: Quiz #2

Fall study break: November 12-16

D. CITIZENSHIP, LAW, AND DEMOCRACY

MONTESQUIEU (Nov 7-Nov 21)

Readings for this unit:

- Charles Louis de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Book I, chapter 3;

- Book II, chapters 1-5; and Book III, chapters 1-9
- Boucher & Kelly (Montesquieu)

Unit topics:

1. Life & times: living under an autocrat (redux)
2. The first theory of comparative politics: why are political regimes so different?
3. Spineless senates, aggressive autocrats, and the preservation of liberty: the theory of the division of powers

ROUSSEAU (Nov 26-Dec 4)

Readings for this unit:

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* (all) and *On the Social Contract* Bk I, ch 1-9; Bk II, ch 1-4, 7; Bk III, ch 1, 3-6, 10-11; Bk IV, ch 1, 6, 8.
- Boucher & Kelly (Rousseau)

Unit topics:

1. Life & times: an outcast challenges the social order
2. If we strip away the thin veneer of civilization, are people just trolls?
“Natural” v. “social” personhood
3. Why is it that, the more society progresses, the worse people behave?
4. Taming the trolls: how is it possible to get everyone to work together in a spirit of civic-mindedness?



APPENDICES

1. Accommodation Policy for Students:

“Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the human rights legislation. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student’s accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca”

2. Missed Exams:

For those missing the first quiz for any reason, the second quiz will be prorated at 30%. For those missing only the second quiz, the final will be prorated at 55%. For those missing both first and second quizzes, the final will be prorated at 70%. The final exam will cover ALL material in the term in substantial detail.

3. Studying for Success:

“University life can often be challenging. However, with help from the Studying for Success program, you too can become a more effective learner. Attend our workshops or drop in for individual study skills sessions, where we can help you with Time Management, Critical Reading, Note taking, Preparing for Exams, and much more. We at SFS would like to make your university experience a more rewarding one. Don’t wait until it’s too late! Let Studying for Success help you find smarter ways to study. For more information or to make appointments, please:

- * visit our website: www.dal.ca/sfs
- * visit our main office in the Killam Library, Room G28 (main floor)
- * call 494-3077 or
- * email the Coordinator at: sfs@dal.ca ”

4. Dalhousie Writing Centre

“Writing expectations at university are higher than you will have experienced at high school (or if you are entering a master's or PhD program, the expectations are higher than at lower levels). The Writing Centre is a Student Service academic unit that supports your writing development. Make an appointment to discuss your writing. Learning more about the writing process and discipline-specific practices and conventions will allow you to adapt more easily to your field of study.

Our new online Resource Guide (<http://dal.ca.libguides.com/writingcentre>) offers information on writing resources including annotated writing models from a number of disciplines.”

5. Statement on Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. (read more: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

How can you achieve academic integrity?

- make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (see <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/Policies/>)
- do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work. This includes computer codes/ programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images
- do not use the work of another from the Internet or any other source and submit it as your own
- when you use the ideas of other people (paraphrasing), make sure to acknowledge the source
- do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor (These examples should be considered only as a guide and not an exhaustive list.)

Where can you turn for help?

If you are ever unsure about any aspect of your academic work, contact me (or the TA):

- Academic Integrity website (see <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>) - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing
- Writing Centre (see <http://writingcentre.dal.ca/>) - Assistance with learning to write academic documents, reviewing papers for discipline-specific writing standards, organization, argument, transitions, writing styles and citations
- Dalhousie Libraries (see <http://www.library.dal.ca/>) - Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (see <http://www.dsu.ca/services/advocacy>)
Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures.
- Senate Office (www.senate.dal.ca)
List of Academic Integrity Officers, discipline flowchart, Senate Discipline Committee

What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

As your instructor, I am required to report every suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Faculty Discipline Flow Chart (see http://senate.dal.ca/Files/AIO_/AcademicDisciplineProcess_Flowchart_updated_July_2011.pdf) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors
- Based on the evidence provided, the AIO decides if there is evidence to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved
- If you are found guilty of an offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning, to failure of the assignment or failure of the class, to expulsion from the University. Penalties may also include a notation on your transcript that indicates that you have committed an academic offence."

6. Grade Scale and Definitions

Letter grades have a grade point assigned that is used to calculate your **GPA (Grade Point Average)**. The following table explains and defines Dalhousie's grading system and shows the GPA value that corresponds with each letter grade.

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.00	85-89		
A-	3.70	80-84		
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		
C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of 'C' is required).

FM	0.00		Marginal Failure	Available only for Engineering, Health Professions and Commerce.
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	
Pending	Neutral		Grade not reported	