



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2410 PHILOSOPHY 2210

CRISIS AND CONSENT:
FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT I



FALL TERM 2021

INSTRUCTOR: DR. K. FIERLBECK
OFFICE: HENRY HICKS A&A #301
K.FIERLBECK@DAL.CA
[2021.08.20](https://www.dalhousie.ca/2021/08/20/)

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 many 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 articulate informed and constructive ideas in response to challenges facing the governance of contemporary polities
- To be able to discuss complex and sensitive normative issues in contemporary politics thoughtfully, openly, and respectfully



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
- To be able to identify the constructive and destructive dynamics underlying political governance



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

Covid-19 proviso: this class is scheduled to be taught in-person for Fall 2021 but, should public health conditions change, it may be changed to online instruction.

Evaluation

The premise underlying evaluation in this class is that some people prefer more assignments worth less, and some prefer fewer assignments worth more. In this class, you can select the number of assignments that works best for you. The bare minimum is that everyone has to write the research paper and the final exam. But you also have the choice of adding on one or two smaller quizzes, and one or two smaller essays. If you do not do these assignments, their value will be added on the final paper/exam. Details for each assignment will be posted on Brightspace.

Assignment	Value	Date/Deadline
Essay I (750 words)	10%	October 14 th (optional)
Essay II (750 words)	15%	November 23 rd (optional)
Research Essay (1000 words)	25%	December 7 th (mandatory)
Quiz I	10%	September 28 th (optional)
Quiz II	10%	November 4 th (optional)
Final Exam	30%	Final exam period (mandatory)

Please keep in mind that there is no turning back: once you have made a decision not to submit an optional assignment, you cannot do so after the fact.

Late policy: For all papers, you have a **48 hour discretionary extension** beyond the stated deadline. During this period, no grades will be deducted, but you will forfeit comments on your paper. After 48 hours, you will no longer be able to submit Essays I or II. For the research paper, you will be docked one point (out of 25) per day after the 48-hour discretionary extension. After one week from the deadline, you will no longer be able to submit. Please do not contact me saying that you want to forfeit a paper or take the extension: just go ahead and do it! Finally, this system is complicated enough - please do not send messages at the end of term asking for a different scoring system.

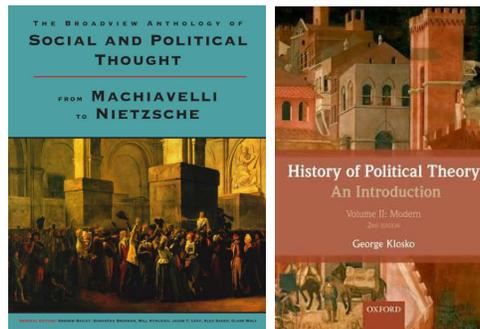
Grades for each assignment, as well as final grades, will be available on Brightspace. Keep in mind you are not only being graded on the content of your assignments, but also on your ability to follow instructions and to complete assignments within the allotted time.

For fall term classes, the last day to drop fall term courses with no financial implications is **September 17th**; the last date to drop a fall-term class without a W appearing on the transcript is **October 1st**; and the last day to drop a fall-term class with a W is **November 1st**



Required Texts

1. **Primary readings** can be found in *The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: From Machiavelli to Nietzsche*, Andrew Bailey et al., eds. (specific chapters are noted in the outline below; please also read the introductions for each required chapter.)
2. For **commentary** on the texts, please read George Klosko, *History of Political Theory, Volume II: Modern* (specific chapters noted in the outline below)



Both books are available at the Dal Bookstore. They can also be ordered online, although delivery times may vary. **Links to the primary readings are posted on Brightspace in each module, so you may chose not to buy the Broadview Anthology if you prefer using the online sources.** The *commentary* book is also available as an ebook via Dal Libraries, so if you have a tight budget you can access all your readings free in virtual format (I know that others of you enjoy having hard copies that you can annotate and highlight.)



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 in both POLI 2410/PHIL 2210 and POLI 2420/PHIL 2220.

LECTURE OUTLINE

Please note that dates may vary from those noted here

Module One: Introduction to the History of Political Thought

Sub-modules:

1. *Introduction* (Sept 7th): what is this class about? How is it organized, and what are the expectations?
2. *A few notes on the study of political thought* (Sept 9th): the perennial nature of power, and the contingencies of context.

RIGHTS AND THE INDIVIDUAL: THE GENESIS OF LIBERALISM

Module Two: HOBBS (Sept 9th – 28th)

Readings for this unit:

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (chapters noted below)
- Klosko (Hobbes)

Sub-modules:

1. *A gentle introduction to the seventeenth century* (start reading Klosko's chapter on Hobbes)
2. *The English Civil War*: what caused it, what it led to, and why it's the start of modern politics as we know it
3. *Philosophical foundations*: what influenced Hobbes' thinking? (read Broadview text, 71-77)
4. *First principles*: what should we believe, and what is fake news?
5. *Human nature and the state of nature*: if we can't trust anyone, then how is social life possible? (*Leviathan*, ch 10 & 11)
6. *Political society*: how do we get out of the state of nature? (*Leviathan*, ch 12-15, 17)
7. *Liberty v. authority*: is it more important to have the liberty to do things you want, or to have the security to enjoy the things you have? (*Leviathan*, ch.18-21, 26, 29)

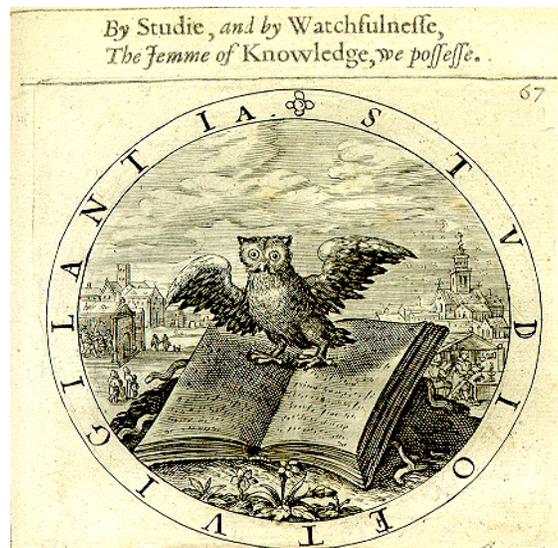
Module Three: LOCKE (September 28th - October 12th)

Readings for this unit:

- John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government* (chapters noted below) and *A Letter Concerning Toleration*
- Klosko (Locke)

Sub-modules:

1. *The late 17th century:* How did living under an autocrat influence Locke's political philosophy? (start reading Klosko's chapter on Locke)
2. *What makes a regime a legitimate one?* (read *The Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 1-4)
3. *The roots of property ownership:* Why does anyone deserve what they own? how is wealth related to politics, anyway? (read *The Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 5)
4. *Draining the swamp:* when (and how) can we legitimately get rid of a corrupt leader? (read *The Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 6-9, 19)
5. *How tolerant should a society be?* (read *A Letter Concerning Toleration*)



WEALTH, VIRTUE, AND REASON: THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT

Module Four: HUME (October 14th- 21st)

Readings for this unit:

- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Appendix 3; *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Bk III, Pt II (“Of justice and injustice”), sections I, II, VII (online only); and *Of the Original Contract*
- Klosko (Hume)

Sub-modules:

1. *Wealth and politics*: How does the nature of industrial society influence political debate? (start reading Klosko's chapter on Hume)
2. *What role should reason play in politics?* (read *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Appendix 3 - online only)
3. *Why are we obliged to obey authority* (especially if those in charge just make our life miserable)? (read *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Bk III, Pt II ("Of justice and injustice"), sections I, II, VII (online only); and *Of the Original Contract*)

Module Five: SMITH (October 26 – November 2nd)

Readings for this unit:

- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, Bk I, ch 1-3, 10; Bk IV, ch 2, 9

Sub-modules:

1. *No, Smith wasn't just an economist*
2. *Did Smith invent capitalism...* (read *The Wealth of Nations*, Bk I, ch 1-3)
3. *...or was he really one of those subversive leftie types?* (read *The Wealth of Nations*, Bk IV, ch 2, 9)



BEYOND LIBERALISM: CITIZENSHIP, ENGAGEMENT, AND DEMOCRACY

Module Six: MONTESQUIEU (November 4th – 18th)

Readings for this unit:

- Charles Louis de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (**online only**): Vol 1: Book II (all); Book III (ch i-ix), Book V (ch i-vi; xi, xiii, xiv); Book VII, (ch ix, xvii)
- Klosko (Montesquieu)

Sub-modules:

1. *Living under an autocrat, redux* (start reading Klosko's chapter on Montesquieu)
2. *The first theory of comparative politics: why are political regimes so different?* (read *The Spirit of the Laws* (**online only**): Vol 1: Book II (all); Book III (ch i-ix))
3. *What role does political culture play in establishing laws?* (read *The Spirit of the Laws* (**online only**): Book V (ch i-vi; xi, xiii, xiv); Book VII, (ch ix, xvii))

Module Seven: ROUSSEAU (November 16th – December 2nd)

Readings for this unit:

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* (all; appendices optional) 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.
- Klosko (Rousseau)

Sub-modules:

1. *The outsider: challenging the social order* (start reading Klosko's chapter on Rousseau)
2. *Human nature, redux: if we strip away the thin veneer of civilization, are people really just trolls?* (read *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* - appendices optional)
3. *Why is it that, the more society progresses, the worse people behave?* (keep reading the *Discourse*)
4. *Taming the trolls: how is it possible to get everyone to work together in a spirit of civic-mindedness?* (read *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).

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APPENDICES

Accommodation Policy for Students:

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

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.

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange, especially in political science. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view.

Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members: towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of difference perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-lifepolicies/code-of-student-conduct.html

Dalhousie Writing Centre

"The Writing Centre offers writing support in all subjects to undergraduate and graduate students, from first-year assignments to final dissertations. We meet with students one-to-one to discuss their work and also offer workshops, seminars, and other special events to support student writing. Appointments are required for all sessions (both in-person and online) and must be booked in advance. Please email writingc@dal.ca to book an appointment or for any questions."

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Studying for Success

"The Studying for Success Program will continue its work supporting students in all areas of study skills and tutoring even if they are away from campus. Our Program Coordinator and our team of study coaches and tutors are ready to help you so that, while you are home and working remotely, you can still complete your course work and the summer term successfully. We can have virtual appointments with you through Brightspace Collaborate or Microsoft Teams (or another video communication platform that's mutually convenient), or via phone call, if you'd prefer. For general inquiries or to make appointments, you may still call us at 902-494-3077 or send your questions to: sfs@dal.ca."

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Useful links:

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- General Academic Support – Advising • https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html (Halifax)
- Student Health Services https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/my-health.html
- Counselling https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/my-health/mental-health.html
- Fair Dealing Guidelines <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealingguidelines.html>
- Dalhousie University Library <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Indigenous Students https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html;
- Black Students https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html;
- International Students https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html
- Copyright Office <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>
- E-Learning website <http://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>

