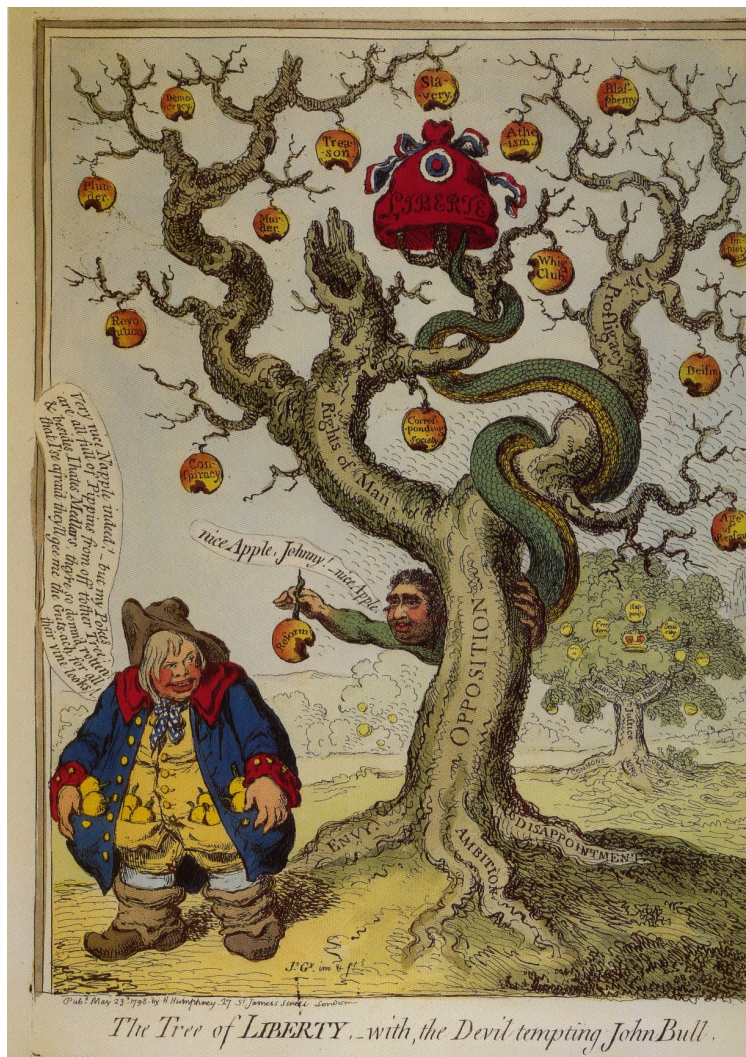


# **REVOLUTION AND RATIONALITY**

## **FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT, 1790-1899**



**POLITICAL SCIENCE 2420/PHILOSOPHY 2220**

WINTER 2024  
K.FIERLBECK@DAL.CA

**COURSE SUMMARY:**

Political Science 2420 (Philosophy 2220), along with Political Science 2410 (Philosophy 2210), is an introduction to political philosophy and to the development of moral and conceptual ideas underlying modern politics. Both classes examine some of the most important normative issues in the history of modern western political thought, and investigate how these questions frame most of today's political debates. Specifically, they 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 political thought.

This class follows, but is not dependent on, POLI 2410/PHIL 2210. However, this class is not suitable for first-year students.



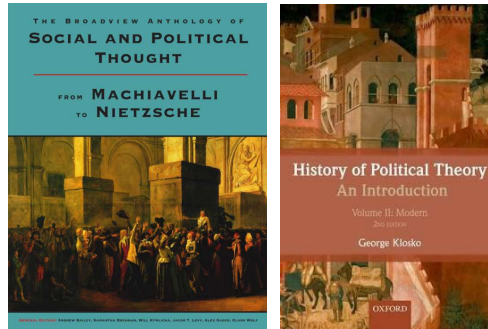
## EVALUATION

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 paper and the final exam. But you also have the choice of writing smaller quizzes. If you do not write these quizzes, their value will be added on the final exam.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Date/Deadline</b>
Quiz 1 (Burke)	10%	January 29 <sup>th</sup> (optional)
Quiz 2 (Paine and Tocqueville)	10%	February 14 <sup>th</sup> (optional)
Quiz 3 (Mill)	10%	March 4 <sup>th</sup> (optional)
Quiz 4 (Marx and Hegel)	10%	March 25 <sup>th</sup> (optional)
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>	Final exam period (mandatory)
<b>Essay (1000 words)</b>	<b>30%</b>	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> (mandatory)

## 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 choose not to buy the Broadview Anthology if you prefer using the online sources. However, the readings in the textbook are edited, and some are therefore shorter. 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.

### **ADD-DROP DEADLINES**

For winter term classes, the last day to drop fall term courses with no financial implications is **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**; the last date to drop a fall-term class without a W appearing on the transcript is **February 6<sup>th</sup>**; and the last day to drop a fall-term class with a W is **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Please contact me at [K.Fierlbeck@dal.ca](mailto:K.Fierlbeck@dal.ca) to make an appointment to meet.

### **OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS**

*The goals of this class are:*



- To understand the key concepts and ideas underlying major works of early modern political thought
- To perceive how and why these ideas are relevant to contemporary political debate
- To grasp how, and why, specific political ideas developed in a particular way

*Students taking this class should develop the ability to:*

- Think in an ordered and logical manner
- Write clearly and persuasively
- Apply key theoretical concepts to current political debates
- Evaluate complex arguments, and approach normative discussions about power and morality, in a rigorous, critical, and systematic manner



### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Anyone with accommodations wishing to write a quiz at the Accommodations Centre **MUST** give instructor two weeks' notice in writing to allow time to send quiz to the Accommodation Centre (which requires this a week in advance). Those submitting a paper late because of accommodation plans must note this on Brightspace when they submit their paper.

## **LECTURES**

**[PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES AND FORMAT MAY VARY**

## DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES]



### MODULE ONE: EDMUND BURKE

#### January 8: NO IN-PERSON CLASS

- **Listen to podcast:** The French revolution's legacy  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547gg>
- **Read:** Klosko, chapter 7

#### January 10: Lecture - Historical context; Prejudice and Rationalism

- **Read:** *Reflections on the Revolution in France*: either Brightspace online, paragraphs 1-49 and 125-149; or in Bailey et al., chapter on Burke

#### January 15 and 17: NO IN-PERSON CLASSES

- **Listen to podcasts:** Burke (BBC); Burke (Philosophy Bites)
- **Read:** Brooks, What happened to American conservatism?
- **Read:** Hoffman, The limits of intellectual reason in our understanding of the natural world

#### January 22 and 24: Lecture - Prescription; Pragmatism; Paradoxes; Burke's Social Contract; Theories of Representation

- **Read:** *Speech to the Electors of Bristol*

### MODULE TWO: THOMAS PAINE

#### January 29 and 30: Lecture – Modernity; Life and Times; Common Sense; Rights of Man

- **Read:** *Rights of Man* (Brightspace)
- **Listen to podcast:** Paine (BBC)

#### Jan 29<sup>th</sup>: Quiz 1 (Burke)

#### February 5: Lecture - Age of Reason

### MODULE THREE: ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE

#### February 5 and 7: Lecture – Life & Times; Tyranny of the Majority; Centralization of Power

- **Read:** *Democracy in America* (Brightspace only)  
BOOK ONE, ch. xv: “Tyranny of the majority”
- **Read:** *Democracy in America* (Bailey et al. OR Brightspace online)  
BOOK TWO: section 2, ch v “Of the use which Americans make of public associations”; ch vi “Of the relations between public associations and

newspapers”; ch vii “Connection of civil and political associations”; ch viii, “How Americans combat individualism”

### **February 12: Lecture - Aristocracy of Manufacturers; Race and Democracy**

- **Read:** *Democracy in America* (Brightspace only)  
BOOK TWO: section 2, ch xii “Causes of fanatical enthusiasm in some Americans”; ch xiii “Causes of the restless spirit of Americans”  
BOOK THREE: ch ix “Education of young women in the United States”  
BOOK FOUR: ch ii, “That the notions of democratic nations government are naturally favorable to the concentration of power”; ch vi “What sort of despotism democratic nations have to fear”

## **MODULE FOUR: JOHN STUART MILL**

### **February 14: Background**

- **Read:** Klosko, chapter 8
- **Listen to podcast:** Bentham (History of Ideas)

### **Feb 14th: Quiz 2 (Paine and Toqueville)**

### **READING WEEK: Feb 19-24**

### **February 26 and 28: Utilitarianism and Liberty**

- **Read:** *Utilitarianism* ch. 2, 3, 5 and *On Liberty* 1-5 (either in Bailey et al. or online on Brightspace)

### **March 4: Quiz #3 (Mill)**

## **MODULE FIVE: G.W.F. HEGEL**

### **March 4 and 6: Lectures – Background; Hegelian Dialectic’ State and Individual**

- **Read:** Klosko, chapter 9
- **Readings:** Hegel, G.W.F. (2017). *Philosophy of History* (J. Sibree, Trans.). Toronto: Our Open Media. Retrieved from <http://bradleymurray.ca>. Pp. 14 (from II) - 29 (first paragraph). On Brightspace.

### **March 11: Lectures - Property; War and Statehood**

## **MODULE SIX: KARL MARX**

### **March 13: Lecture – The Influence of Hegel**

- **Read:** Crystia Freeland, “The self-destruction of the 1 per cent.” *New York Times* 13 October 2012 (on Brightspace)
- **Read:** Klosko, chapter 10

**March 18 and 20: Lecture – Early Marx (Alienation) and Late Marx (Material Analysis)**

- **Read:** *On Bruno Bauer’s “On the Jewish Question” and Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts* (“Estranged labor” and “Private property and communism”). Available either in Bailey et al. or on Brightspace

**March 25: Quiz #4 (Hegel and Marx)**

**MODULE SEVEN: FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

**March 25 and 27: Lecture – Beyond Rationality; The Death of God and the Birth of Tragedy**

- **Read:** *Beyond Good & Evil – Part Five: A Natural History of Morals and Part Nine: What is Noble?* Bailey et al. or Brightspace
- *The Genealogy of Morals - First Essay: Good and Evil, Good and Bad and Second Essay: Guilt, Bad Conscience and Related Matters.* Bailey et al. or Brightspace

**April 1 and 3: Lecture – The Will to Power**

**April 3: Paper due**



**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](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](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](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](mailto:writingc@dal.ca) to book an appointment or for any questions."*

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](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](mailto:sfs@dal.ca).”  
[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)



### **Stress**

*University life can be stressful at the best of times. If any students are struggling, and are looking for mental health support, please make sure you reach out for help. There are a variety of mental health resources and supports available for students at [www.dal.ca/mentalhealth](http://www.dal.ca/mentalhealth). If you wish to chat with a mental health professional, same-day counselling appointments are available at the Student Health and Wellness Centre on the 2nd floor of LeMarchant Place. Appointments can be made by calling 902-494-2171 or online at: [www.dal.ca/studenthealth/bookonline](http://www.dal.ca/studenthealth/bookonline). Students can also access free and confidential mental health counselling support 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, by calling Good2Talk at 1-833-292-3698 or by texting GOOD2TALKNS to 686868. If you are in crisis, you can always call 902-429-8167 or 1-888-429-8167 to reach the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

### **Useful links:**

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)  
[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](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](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](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html) (Halifax)

- 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](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html);
- Black Students [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html);
- International Students [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre.html](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>

JANUARY 2024