

POLI 2420/PHIL 2220: Political Thought 1789-1900
Winter 2016 – Dalhousie University
Studley Chemistry Building, Room 226,
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 14:35-15:55

Professor: Marcella Firmini
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1 - 2:30pm (or by appointment)
Contact: Marcella.Firmini@dal.ca (Please allow 48hr response time)
TA Contact: TBA in class

This survey course is an introduction to political thought which traces the development of modern liberalism and the challenges to it. The course begins with lectures on the historical/political/social context and moves from Burke and concludes with Nietzsche.

Objectives: Understand key texts and concepts, and how they relate to a modern context; think, write, and argue logically, critically, and clearly on the topics addressed; realize the importance of ideas and their influence.

Required Text & readings: 1. Stephen Cahn (ed), *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* (2nd ed)
2. BBL Web links to online sources

Evaluations:

1. Feb. 4: Quiz (25%)
2. February 25: Midterm (35%)
3. March 10: Research paper (40%)
4. Final Exam: per registrar's calendar

Grading Scheme: As per Dalhousie University Regulations

EXAMS AND TESTS **WILL NOT** BE RESCHEDULED EXCEPT FOR DOCUMENTED &
VERIFIABLE MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION

- Always keep electronic or back-up copies of your paper
- Although no grade is assigned for attendance, lectures will cover large portions of material that **will not** be posted on OWL.
- No 'late penalties' are assigned because 'late' papers will not be accepted unless the failure to present is justifiable and verifiable through appropriate documentation. If you are encountering difficulties meeting your deadlines, approach the instructor well **before** the submission date to discuss your situation.

**PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE DATES WITHIN WHICH YOU CAN
DROP COURSES WITHOUT PENALTIES HERE:**

http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

Plagiarism

No amount of plagiarism will be tolerated. There is no excuse for it – ever.

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced here: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Accommodation – Please visit their offices for more details

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/accessibility/accommodation-statement-for-course-syllabus.html.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

RULES and POLICY REGARDING USE OF TECHNOLOGY/ELECTRONICS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS.

January 5: Welcome

- *Introduction and expectations*

January 7-12: Historical Context

Readings:

1. Web links posted to BBL. These are mandatory readings.

January 14-19-21: Edmund Burke

Readings:

1. Speech to the Electors of Bristol (pg. 1177)
2. Reflections on the Revolution in France (Web link on BBL. Pp. 50-117 are mandatory)
3. Boucher & Kelly (pp. 282-302)

January 26, 28, Feb. 2: Thomas Paine

Readings:

1. The Rights of Man (Web link on BBL. Pp. 6 – 99 are mandatory)
2. Web link to brief biographical information on BBL.

Feb. 4: Quiz

Feb 9, 11, (Study Break), 23: Alexis de Tocqueville

Readings: Democracy in America (Web link to PDF on BBL)

1. Web link to brief biographical information on BBL.
2. **Vol. I:** “Tyranny of the majority”;
“Power exercised by the majority in America upon opinion”
3. **Vol. II:** “Why democratic nations show a more ardent and enduring love of quality”;
“Relations of civil to political associations”;
“How an aristocracy can be created by manufacturers”;
“That the sentiments of democratic nations accord with their opinions in leading them to concentrate political power”;
“What sort of despotism democratic nations have to fear”;
“General survey of the subject”.

February 15 – 19: STUDY BREAK

February 25: Midterm

March 1, 3, 8: John Stuart Mill

Readings:

1. Cahn: pp. 921-923
2. Utilitarianism I-V (pp. 924-927)
3. On Liberty I-V (pp. 958-1017)

March 10, 15: G.W. F. Hegel

Readings:

1. **(Paper due March 10)**
2. Cahn: pp. 825-829
3. The Philosophy of Right (pp. 829-844)
4. The Philosophy of History (pp. 844-856)

March 17, 22: Karl Marx

Readings:

1. Cahn: pp. 857-861
2. Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 (pp. 862-869)
3. The German Ideology (pp. 869-878)
4. Manifesto of the Communist Party (pp. 878-895)

March 24-29-31: Friedrich Nietzsche

Readings: (see BBL web links for page ranges)

1. Boucher & Kelly (pp. 491-510)
2. Human, All Too Human
3. Thus Spoke Zarathustra
4. Beyond Good & Evil
5. The Genealogy of Morals
6. Twilight of the Idols

April 5: Final Exam Prep

FINAL EXAM DURING REGISTRAR'S EXAMINATION PERIOD