

POLI 2410/PHIL 2210
Foundations of Political Thought 1658- 1779
Fall 2016 – Dalhousie University; Wednesdays and Fridays, 13:05-14:25

Professor: Dr. M. Firmini
Office: Political Science – Henry Hicks, 355
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 am – 12:00 pm (alternatives by appointment)
Contact: Marcella.Firmini@dal.ca (Please allow 48hr response time)
TA Contact: TBA in class if available

Course Description:

This course is meant as an introduction to political philosophy and ideas that still influence modern society. It begins by giving historical context and follows by tracing the development of political ideas that shaped, and continue to shape, the world.

Required Texts: Course pack containing the following

- *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present* by D. Boucher and P. Kelly & *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts* by S. M. Cahn (both from Oxford University Press) – latest edition
 - *Online Readings* will be posted to BrightSpace.
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Assignments and Grading:

There will one paper worth 30 percent. Summary of this assignment is outlined below; more will be said during lectures and a document with specifications will be posted to BrightSpace. Also, there will be a quiz, a midterm and a final exam each of which *may* be composed of short answer questions, essay questions, quotation recognition, multiple choice, and true/false or a combination of these.

Quiz: (15%) – October 7

Midterm: (20%) – November 4

Paper: (30%) - November 16

Final exam: As per Registrar's Calendar (35%)

Summary of Assignment Requirements: You will develop your own research based on particular topics outlined and discussed in class, and posted to BrightSpace.

- **Papers must be:**
 - ✓ Written in 12-point font (Times New Roman only).
 - ✓ 11-12 pages double-spaced. Do not exceed this limit of twelve (12) pages or fail to meet the minimum of eleven (11) pages.
 - ✓ Formatted consistently; styled either MLA or APA.
 - **Papers that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted.**
 - **No late papers will be accepted without a medical justification.**
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Learning Objectives:

The course aims to

- familiarize students with the foundations of Western political thought and its development;
- familiarize students with the great thinkers and their continued relevancy;

- recognize the importance of ideas to politics, institutions, values;
- strengthen *critical* and *independent* thinking capacities;
- refine skills related to the evaluation of empirical evidence derived from literature produced in the discipline;
- lay the foundations which will prepare students for more advanced courses in political science.

Knowledge & Skills Acquisition and Application — Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be expected to be capable of competently

- recognizing, describing, and critiquing the foundations of Western political thought;
- recognizing foundational ideas when presented and confronted within political discourse;
- recognizing, describing, and operationalizing key concepts in the field of political thought;
- structure a logical, methodical, analytical oral argument and research paper related to the discipline;
- communicate effectively in written and oral form

Dalhousie Grading Scheme:

A+	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	85-89		
A-	80-84		
B+	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	73-76		
B-	70-72		
C+	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	60-64		
C-	55-59		
D	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).

F	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
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Rules and Policy Regarding Cell Phone and Computer Etiquette:

1. The use of cellular phones or any other electronic gadgetry is **not permitted** during class; neither are recording devices of **ANY** kind. During regular classes, phones must be stored away and all ringers must be switched to vibrate. If a call constitutes an *emergency*, students are asked to exit the classroom and make (or take) the call **quietly** in the hallway without disturbing others. Students will be allowed to re-enter the classroom once the communication is completed.
2. During exams and quizzes, all phones, computers, and all other electronic gadgets **must be turned off and stored away**.
3. Use of laptops for taking notes during lectures is permitted; *however*, should complaints arise regarding inappropriate or distracting web browsing during class, the use of laptops will be restricted. Use them wisely.
4. Phone calls, texts, Snap Chat, You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, and **ALL** other forms of social media usage are **NOT** permitted inside the classroom.

Statement on Academic Integrity (Source: Dalhousie University):

“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.

What does academic integrity mean?

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people’s work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student’s responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met.

How can you achieve academic integrity?

[T]he following are **some ways** that you can achieve academic integrity:

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie’s policies on academic integrity (<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/Policies/>)
- Do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- Be sure not to plagiarize, intentionally or unintentionally
- Clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work. This includes ideas, figures of speech, 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...previously [and] submitted for another assignment

Where can you turn for help?

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

- Academic Integrity website <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>
- Writing Centre
(http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

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

I am *required* to report every suspected offence... 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.

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and

plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the

academicintegrity.dal.ca website. ***Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations***”.

Plagiarism, therefore, is considered a serious academic offence. ***No excuse is acceptable for plagiarism*** and **NO AMOUNT OF PLAGIARISM WILL BE TOLERATED AND THUS WILL BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY**. For more information, see:

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

Requests for Student Accommodation (Source: Dalhousie University):

“Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian 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 902-494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

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

- ✓ No alternative dates for quizzes/exams/due dates will be set except for serious medical conditions
- ✓ No assignments will be given for extra credit.
- ✓ Be advised that lectures will cover large portions of material that will not be posted on BrightSpace.
- ✓ **DO NOT** book any travel before the exam schedules are known.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with course ‘Drop Dates’. These can be found here: http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

SEPTEMBER

07: Introduction and Expectations

09-14: Toward 1651: do ideas Matter? Why do they endure?

- TA intro and contact information if available
- Readings – Cahn, pp. 1087-1091 (Pericles' Funeral Oration)
pp. 1109-1113 (John Dewey)
- Readings – B&K, pp. 1-9; pp.25- 27; pp.100-108 & 111-112

16-21: The Renaissance & Niccolò Machiavelli and beyond

- Readings - Cahn: 268-272
The Prince – Chps. I-III; V-VIII; XV-XVIII; XXV
Discourses – pp. 296 (2); 298 (9); 302 (B2); 306 (8); 307 (9)
- Readings – B&K, pp. 163-168 & 177-184

23-28-30: The Enlightenment & Thomas Hobbes

- Readings - Cahn: 309-311
Chap. Intro; Chps. 17, 18, 19, 21, 29
- Readings – B&K, pp. 189-206

PAPER TOPICS AVAILABLE – See BrightSpace

OCTOBER

05: Avoiding Plagiarism – Guest Lecturer

- Quiz Preparation

07: Quiz

12-14-19: John Locke

- Readings - Cahn: 360-364;
Chap. I – IX & XIX
- Readings – B&K, pp. 207-224

21-26-28: Le Baron de Montesquieu

- Readings – Cahn: 401-404;
Chps: B1: C1; B2 – CII; B3: C3 & C9; B7 – C2; B XI – C6;
 - Readings – B&K, pp. 245-252; 254-262
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NOVEMBER

02: Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- *Readings* - Cahn: 418-421;
Discourse Inequality: 422-437
Social Contract: B1 (I-IX); BII (I-VII); 576-584 (II-XI);
BIV (I); IX – Conclusion.
- *Readings* – B&K, pp. 263-281

NOV. 4: MIDTERM (will cover Rousseau material discussed on Nov. 2)

Study Break: November 7-11

16 & 18: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (continued)

- Paper due (16th)

23, 25, 30: American Political Thought & the Impact of Ideas

- *Readings* - Cahn 546-550;
Fed 10 (p. 555); Fed 48 (p. 571); Fed 51 (p. 573);
Declaration of Independence, pp. 1091-1093;
American Constitutional Amendments (Bill of Rights): pp.
1101-1106;
Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen: pp.
1106-1107.
- *Readings* – B&K, pp. 303-324

DECEMBER

December 2: Toward 1781 (II Term Topic!) and Final Examination Prep

Final Exam as per Registrar's Calendar.

Remember: **DO NOT BOOK TRAVEL** until you are aware of the date of the final exam.