



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

Political Thought: 1651-1778

POLI 2410 / PHIL 2410

Class Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:05 pm – 5:25 pm

Class Location: Sir James Dunn Building, Rm. 101

Course Type: In-person (Lecture)

Instructor: Dr. Adam Foster (he/him)

E-mail address: adam.foster@dal.ca

Office Hours: Monday 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Office:

Territorial Acknowledgement

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

Course Description

This course covers some of the most important early modern theorists (Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Smith, Rousseau, and Montesquieu). It looks at the development of natural rights, democracy, capitalism, and citizenship.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be familiar with the foundational figures of early modern political philosophy as well as many of the major concepts of liberal and democratic theory. This will include: rights, the law, the state of nature, the social contract, consent, liberty, property, checks and balances, and the general will. Moreover, students will have gained a solid foundation in philosophical inquiry and the methodology of political theory.

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, ‘thinking and acting globally’ enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is “interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders.” For more information, please visit <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html> .

There are powerful endogenous critiques of the canon revealing its neglect for women, persons of color, the impoverished, and many other marginalized persons. In this course, students are encouraged to be mindful of how this course’s readings might be interpreted differently in a different temporal and geographic context, or interpreted by a reader who is different from themselves.

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact **the Student Accessibility Centre**. They are located in the Killam Memorial Library Atrium, in Room G28. Their website is: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Mask Mandate

As per Dalhousie University policy, students are required to always wear masks during class to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I also ask that you wear a mask if you visit during office hours.

If I am able keep a safe distance during class, I may remove my mask in order to better project while leading class. If this is the case, please allow me to put my mask back on before approaching me after class with questions or concerns.

Statement on Mental Health

During your time as a student, you may find yourself struggling with issues that can impact your studies as well as your personal well-being, including (but not limited to) anxiety, depression, problems with a loved one or family member, substance abuse, difficulties sleeping, lack of motivation, and struggles adapting to life in a place that is not home. These mental health issues are serious and can interfere with both your ability to do well in university and live a happy life. If you are struggling, please seek help.

Dalhousie's **Student Health & Wellness Centre** offers confidential counseling, social work, and peer support services to students. They are located on the **2nd floor of LeMarchant Place** and can be contacted by phone at **(902) 494-2171**. Appointments can also be **booked online** on their website: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/my-health/mental-health.html

You can also access free, confidential counseling over the phone by calling **1-833-292-3698** or **texting GOOD2TALKNS to 686868**.

Asking for help is never a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strength. It is a courageous thing to do. Help is always available, and recovery is always possible.

Class Conduct – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. 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 differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness. For more information, visit <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html> .

Code of Student 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. For more information, see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Statement of Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism

Statement is taken from University Secretariat website's Academic Integrity section, with links updated. See

[https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/Syllabus_Statement_\(Aug%202015\).pdf](https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/Syllabus_Statement_(Aug%202015).pdf)

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?

We must all work together to prevent academic dishonesty because it is unfair to honest students. The following are some ways that you can achieve academic integrity; some may not be applicable in all circumstances.

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (see http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html)
- Do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- Do not falsify data or lab results

Be sure not to **plagiarize**, intentionally or unintentionally, for example...

- 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. You are encouraged to also consult:

- Academic Integrity website (see http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing).
- Writing Centre (see https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html - Assistance with learning to write academic documents, reviewing papers for discipline-specific writing standards, organization, argument, transitions, writing styles and citations).
- Dalhousie Libraries (see <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/writing.html> -Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks .
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (see <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas> - Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures).
- Senate Office (see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/university_senate.html 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

https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/FDPflowchartSEpt2016.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.

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work, and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes (September 16th, 2022) of their intent to choose an alternate method. For more information, see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html

Student Use of Course Materials

These course materials are designed for use as part of the [course code] course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.

Recording of Class Lectures

Audio or video recordings of the class lectures and discussions are prohibited, other than in cases of a documented accommodation through Dalhousie's Accessibility Center.

Required Textbooks

The following textbooks contain the required readings for this course. They are available for purchase at the Dalhousie University Bookstore.

1. Bailey, Andrew et al., ed. *The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: from Machiavelli to Nietzsche*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2018.
2. Klosko, George. *History of Political Theory: An Introduction Volume II: Modern*. 2nd ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2012.

These books are referred to as **(Broadview)** and **(Klosko)** respectively in the class and reading schedule. Other readings will post be posted on Brightspace and are labelled as **(Brightspace)**. Others are available on the Dalhousie library website and are labeled **(Online)**.

These books are also available through the Dalhousie University Libraries:

1. **(Broadview)** is available on reserve at the Killam Memorial Library.
2. **(Klosko)** is available online through Novanet on the Dalhousie Libraries website: https://dal.novanet.ca/permalink/01NOVA_DAL/1nek75v/alma990046709460107190

Additional Primary Texts

Online readings by Benedict Spinoza; Adam Smith; and Charles, Baron de Montesquieu are from the following books:

1. Spinoza, Benedict. *The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume II*. Edited by Edwin Curley. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2016.
2. Smith, Adam. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Edited by Knud Haakonssen. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
3. Montesquieu, Charles de Secondat. *The Spirit of the Laws*. Translated and edited by Anne M. Cohler, Basia Carolyn Miller, and Harold Samuel Stone. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

You are not required to buy these books. Please don't: they are all very expensive. However, you will need the above information to cite them properly in your papers.

You may also wish to consult parts of these texts that were not assigned as required readings. As such, these books will also be placed on reserve at the Killam Memorial Library.

Additional Secondary Texts

In addition to required readings, another great book for helping you understand the philosophers we will be discussing is:

1. Boucher, David and Paul Joseph Kelly. *Political Thinkers: from Socrates to the Present*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2003.

It is available on reserve at the Killam Library. You are not required to purchase or read this book, but you may find it helpful.

Websites You May Find Useful

It's very tempting to read Wikipedia to get a better understanding of the pieces we'll be reading this semester. I urge you not to do so: the information there is not always accurate. Instead, please consider consulting these websites instead:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu>

The articles on these websites are written by scholars in the field but are written to be accessible – much like Wikipedia.

Please note, reading the articles on this website is *not* a substitution for having done the reading, and these resources are meant to support your own thinking, not replace it.

Grade Break Down and Assignments

Attendance: 10%
Test #1: 10%
Test #2: 10%
Test #3: 10%
Essay #1: 20%
Essay #2: 20%
Final Exam: 20%

Attendance – 10% of Final Grade

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, and accounts for **10%** of your final grade. If you are late for class, you may not be marked present. Therefore, it is crucial that you are punctual.

If you miss class because of illness or family emergency, please let me know as soon as possible. There are circumstances for which you will not be penalized for missing class.

Monthly Tests – 30% of Final Grade

At the end of each month (with the exception of December), there will be an online test to be completed on your own through Brightspace. The content of these tests will come from both the assigned readings and material covered in class. Each test will be worth **10%** for a total **30%** of your final grade.

Research Papers – 40% of Final Grade

Students are required to write two 5-7 page, double spaced research papers, not including the bibliography. These are worth **20%** each for a total of **40%**, and are due on **October 31st** and **December 7th**. A list of topics will be circulated two weeks before these due dates. You are also free to choose your own topic, but it must be cleared by me through email.

If you have any difficulties locating articles or relevant books and book chapters, or are unsure if an article is peer-reviewed, you can contact me or reference services located in the lobby of

the Killam Library, or through the “Live Help Service” available at <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/ask-us.html> .

Final Exam – 20% of Final Grade

An exam will be administered during the final exam period in December. This exam will cover the contents of the entire course, with an emphasis on the first three units. This exam is worth **30%** of your final grade.

Emailing Policy

I respond to all course related emails within 24 hours, apart from weekends and holidays.

Students are asked to use professional language in all communications (“Dear Dr. Foster;” “Sincerely;” etc.) and include the name of the course at the beginning of the subject line of your email (POLI 2410 or PHIL 2410). Please also make sure the answer to your question is not already in the syllabus (though if something in the syllabus doesn’t make sense, it is ok to email me and ask for clarification).

Please also send any emails from your Dalhousie email address; this helps prevent Outlook mistaking an email as spam.

Policy on Late Assignments

For writing assignments, late submissions will be deducted by 2 points per day from a total of 20 potential points per essay. In other words, if your paper is a day late, the highest grade you will be able to earn is 28/20; if it is two days late, the highest you will be able to earn is 26/20; and so on. This also works out to a deduction of 2% from your final grade.

Late tests will not be accepted absent a medical or family emergency. Once submissions close on Brightspace, you will not be able to access the test or submit your completed answers.

If you are late for class, you will not earn your attendance mark for that day.

Class and Reading Schedule

Please-note: I reserve the right to changes to the readings and the order in which we will be reading them if necessary. If I do so, I will give you at least one week's notice, and will notify you by email as well as in class.

Additionally, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to speak to another classmate to catch up on what you've missed.

September

Unit #1: Introduction to Political Philosophy (September 7th – 12th)

Wednesday, September 7th:

Introduction to the course and syllabus

Monday, September 12th:

Readings:

James Tully, "Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity," *Political Theory* 30, no. 4 (August 2002): 533-555. **(Online)**

https://dal.novanet.ca/permalink/01NOVA_DAL/ev10a8/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_60615288

Unit #2: Thomas Hobbes (September 14th – 28th)

Wednesday, September 14th:

Readings:

1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 77-83 **(Broadview)**
2. George Klosko, "Thomas Hobbes," pp. 48 – 113 **(Klosko)** *BEGIN READING. FINISH BY END OF UNIT.*

Monday, September 19th:

Readings:

1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 83-105 **(Klosko)**

Wednesday, September 21st:

Readings:

1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 105-118 **(Klosko)**

Monday, September 26th:

Readings:

1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 118-139 (**Klosko**)

Wednesday, September 28th:

Readings:

1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 139-154 (**Klosko**)

October

Unit #3: Benedict Spinoza (October 3rd – 12th)

Monday, October 3rd:

Readings:

1. Benedict Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*, selections from Preface, and Chapters IV and XVI (**Brightspace**) pp. 65-70 ; 125-128 ; 282-296.
2. Charles Jarrett, "The Political Works" in *Spinoza: A Guide for the Perplexed (Online)*. **BEGIN READING. FINISH BY END OF UNIT.**

Wednesday, October 5th:

Readings:

1. Benedict Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*, selections from Chapters XVII and XX pp. 296-300 ; 344-354. (**Brightspace**)

Monday, October 10th:

NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING. UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Wednesday, October 12th:

Readings:

1. Benedict Spinoza, *The Political Treatise*, Chapters I – V ; XI, pp. 503-531 ; 601-604 (**Brightspace**)

Unit #4: John Locke (October 17th- 26th)

Monday, October 17th:

Readings:

1. John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Preface, Chapters 1-4, pp. 160-168 (**Broadview**)

2. George Klosko, "John Locke and Liberal Theory," pp. 113-164 (**Klosko**). *BEGIN READING. FINISH BY END OF UNIT.*

Wednesday, October 19st:

Readings:

1. John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 5 & 7-9, pp. 168-174 & 181-194 (**Broadview**)

Monday, October 24th:

Readings:

1. John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 10-17, pp. 194-211 (**Broadview**)

Wednesday, October 26th:

Readings:

1. John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapter 18 – end, pp. 211-225 (**Broadview**)

Unit #5: The Scottish Enlightenment (October 31st – November 16th)

Monday, October 31st:

Readings:

1. David Hume, *A Treatise on Human Nature*, pp. 250-262 (**Broadview**)
2. George Klosko, "David Hume," 165-212 (**Klosko**) *BEGIN READING. FINISH BY END OF UNIT*

November

Wednesday, November 2nd:

Readings:

1. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, pp. 262-266 (**Broadview**)
2. David Hume, *Of the Original Contract*, pp. 266-274 (**Broadview**)

FALL STUDY BREAK NOVEMBER 7TH TO 11TH

Monday, November 14th:

Readings:

1. Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Part I, Section I, Chapters 1 & 3, pp. 11-17 & 20-23 (**Brightspace**)
2. Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Part II, Section II, Chapters 1 – 3, pp. 91-107 (**Brightspace**)

Wednesday, November 16th:

Readings:

1. Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 385-391 (**Broadview**)
2. Erik Lundestad, "The Adam Smith Problem: A Reinterpretation" (**Online**)
<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=98286362&site=ehost-live>

Unit #6: Montesquieu, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Democratic Theory (November 21st – December 7th)

Monday, November 21st:

Readings:

1. Charles, Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Part 1, Book 2, pp. 10-20 (**Brightspace**)
2. Charles, Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Part 1, Book 3, Chapters 1-9, pp. 21-29 (**Brightspace**)
3. George Klosko, "Montesquieu" (**Klosko**) *FINISH BY END OF WEEK*

Wednesday, November 23rd:

Readings:

1. Charles, Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Part 2, Book 11, Chapters 1-7 pp. 154-166 (**Brightspace**)

Monday, November 28th:

Readings:

1. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men*, pp. 279-317 (**Broadview**) *READ WHAT YOU CAN. FINISH BY WEDNESDAY.*
2. George Klosko, "Jean-Jacques Rousseau"

Wednesday, November 30th:

Readings:

1. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men*, pp. 279-317 (**Broadview**) *FINISH*

December

Monday, December 5th:

Readings:

1. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract or the Principles of Political Right*, Preface and Books 1 & 2, pp. 327-349 (**Broadview**)

Tuesday, December 6th:

Readings:

1. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract or the Principles of Political Right*, Preface and Books 3 & 5, pp. 349-384 (**Broadview**)