

POLI 2420 - Revolution and Rationality - *Foundations of Political Thought*

Department of Political Science

Dalhousie University

Winter 2023

Time and Location

Monday/Wednesday 14:35-15:55

Dunn Building, Room 101

Instructor

Dr. Kiran Banerjee

Office: HH 355A

Phone: (902) 494-6603; Email: kr561466@dal.ca

Office hours: Fri 15:00-16:30, by appointment

Course Overview

This course, along with Political Science 2410, is an introduction to the development of political theory in the modern era. Political Science 2420 focuses on a number of central texts of political philosophy, all of which have had an enduring influence on the history of political thought. By working through these canonical texts, students will be introduced to a number of perspectives in the Enlightenment tradition of political theory while also canvassing some of the important critical responses to Enlightenment thought. Topics the course will address include the grounds of political legitimacy, the significance of freedom and equality, the nature of autonomy, as well as the place of justice and morality in political life. Political theorists to be examined include Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill and Karl Marx.

Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of the main lines of thought of major figures in modern political theory;
2. Reflect on how these ideas have shaped contemporary politics in liberal democracies;
3. Formulate considered judgments on the concepts and ideas covered in the course;
4. Think, write, and argue logically, critically, and clearly on the topics addressed.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements

1000-level course in Philosophy or Political Science or Kings FYP is highly recommended. POLI 2410 is not a formal prerequisite for POLI 2420, although students will find POLI 2410 a very useful introduction to POLI 2420.

CLASS MATERIALS

Readings/Textbooks

Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*, Hackett (978-1-60384-673-8)
Kant, *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings*, Yale (978-0-300-11070-8)
Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Tucker, Norton (978-0-393-09040-6)
Mill, *The Basic Writings of John Stuart Mill*, Modern Library (978-0-375-75918-5)

N.B. **Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard**

Textbooks are available from the Dalhousie University Bookstore. They can also be ordered online, although delivery times may vary.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each class session will begin with a lecture, followed by a brief period specifically devoted to class discussions and questions; student participation is strongly encouraged. Regular and punctual attendance of all classes is expected from all students. Students are expected to have completed all readings prior to attending the class and should be prepared to discuss the material. Moreover, students should be aware that they are responsible for the materials covered in the lectures as well as the course readings, so consistent attendance at lecture is imperative.

The final grade for this course will be based on the following elements:

Grading Scheme

Evaluation Component:	Due Date:	Percent:
Mid-term Exam	February 15 th , 2023, in class (60 minutes)	30%
Term Paper	March 30 th , 2023, 5 pm. (Submit on Brightspace & bring hardcopy to next class on April 3)	30%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by registrar at any time during the exam period (April 13-25, 2023)	40%
Total		100%

Evaluation Components

In-class Midterm Exam

Value: 30% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Length: 60 Minutes.

Type: Comprehensive, closed book examination in class.

Description: The exam format will be described in class. Electronic devices are not allowed.

Term Paper

Value: 30% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Type: This written assignment requires students to apply critical thinking skills to assess the concepts and arguments encountered in the class. Students must demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills.

Description: The purpose of the final essay is to apply what you have learned during the course by assessing the ideas and arguments of two thinkers from modern political thought.

Term paper topics will be distributed in advance; the term paper will be comparative.

Directions for the assignment will be made available subsequently on Brightspace.

Final Exam

Value: 40% of final grade

Length: 2 Hours.

Type: Comprehensive, closed book examination.

Description: The exam will assess knowledge and comprehension from the entire course. The exam format will be described in class. Electronic devices are not allowed.

Criteria That Must Be Met to Pass

All assignments must be completed and submitted prior to April 12th at 11:59 pm or they will be considered incomplete and the student will receive a maximum final numeric grade of 49%.

EVALUATION POLICIES

Statement on Academic Integrity

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism on the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University

Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the information on the University's academic integrity website as well as consult the student resources provided on the site.

All course assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by Urkund, a University approved computer service that checks assignments for plagiarism. Students are required to retain an electronic copy of all papers in addition to the hard copy submitted to the professor.

More information about Urkund can be found here:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/faculty-resources/urkund--plagiarism-detection.html

Citation Style

Written assignments must conform to Chicago Manual of Style notes-bibliography style guidelines (see the "Chicago" section on the Style Guides research guide page at <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/style-guides.html>).

Submitting Assignments

Final paper assignments are to be submitted in electronic (MS Word) form through Brightspace and in hard copy in class. Electronic assignments in alternate software (e.g., Pages, Publisher) will not be accepted. The file name must start with your last name and first initial, followed by the assignment type (e.g., "Smith K Research Paper.doc"). Your assignment will not be considered submitted unless you have submitted your assignment electronically via Brightspace and directly by email to the instructor. Assignments should not be submitted to the Department office; any such assignments will not be accepted as submitted.

All written submissions must be typed; double-spaced; Times New Roman font. Please do not include a cover page; however, make sure to include a heading with your name, student number, my name and the course code, date, as well as the assignment title ("Final Essay"). Correct grammar and proper formatting of your written work will be important to your grade. Marks will be deducted for grammatical, spelling and formatting errors.

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence

The course policy is that late assignments are penalized 10% per week, beginning from the date the assignment is due. Exceptions may be made, at my discretion, for students who contact me regarding medical reasons or family emergencies (but not computer-related emergencies) before assignments are due. Documentation will be required in these cases.

For final papers, you have a 48 hour discretionary deadline 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 be docked the full 10% per week, until the assignment is submitted. Barring extensions, work submitted more than 10 days after assignment deadlines will not be accepted. The student declaration of absence form replaces sick notes for absences of three days or fewer that result in missed or late academic requirements. However, if you do not inform the professor in advance, or the assignment is very late, your work may be penalized as per course policy. Please refer to Brightspace for more information about the policy and for the form itself.

Grade Policy

The course's grading scheme follows the Dalhousie undergraduate academic calendar.
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/grade-scale-and-definitions.html

Grade Appeal Policy

A student who is dissatisfied with the assessment of their work or performance in any aspect of class work, including a midterm or final examination, shall follow the procedures set out below.

Please carefully review these procedures. Once an appeal is submitted the entire assignment will be re-examined, not just the question or paragraph mentioned in the appeal. The appeal process can, therefore, result in one of three outcomes: no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

Students who wish to initiate the first procedural step outlined in the course policy to have an assignment or exam grade revisited must do the following:

- a) Within five days of receipt of the assignment grade, submit to me via email a written explanation, no more than one page in length (typed and single-spaced) explaining why the grade should be revisited and what the grader missed in his/her comments. Along with this explanation, please provide me with an electronic copy (scanned if necessary) of the original exam or paper. (You should retain the original copy.)
- b) After submission of the written materials, it is your responsibility to contact me via email to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the exam/paper and your written submission.

Participation and Attendance Expectations

This class does not have a participation and attendance grade, but students are expected to attend all class sessions.

CLASS POLICIES

Respect

You are expected to treat your fellow students, your instructor and guest lecturers with respect. Please show up to sessions on time, refrain from talking and texting when others are speaking, and turn all mobile devices to silent mode. Communications with the instructor, be they in person, over email or over the telephone, should be courteous and professional.

It bears repeating and emphasizing that students should treat each other (and all class participants) with kindness and respect. This expectation of respect is mandated by the Student Code of Conduct. Accordingly, students should be especially mindful of the need to maintain a polite and respectful level of engagement.

Email Policy

Student email communications will be limited to requests to set up appointments (if meeting during office hours is not possible) and notifying me of extended absences. I will not: respond to questions regarding information clearly stated in the course syllabus by email; discuss substantive issues or answer substantive questions (i.e. those requiring an answer longer than a paragraph) by email; accept assignments by email; or respond to an unprofessional or rude email. I respond to emails during normal university work hours (i.e., Mon-Fri. 9 am – 5 pm), and students can typically expect a response to an email enquiry within two work-days. I do not typically respond to emails in the evenings, on weekends, or on statutory holidays.

Recording of the Course and Class Slides

Class lectures and any other materials provided for the course are subject to the copyright of the course instructor and may not be reproduced or copied in whole or in part without the consent of the instructor. Students who are enrolled in the course and who are provided with special permission to receive course materials or any other material may, in such circumstances retain it in order to view it at a more convenient time, but must destroy the reproduction within 20 days of the last course session, April 10th 2023. Non-authorized audio / video recordings or photographs of lectures and/or seminar sessions are not permitted under any circumstances.

Copyright

Class materials, including lecture slides and content, are normally the intellectual property of the person who has made the presentation in the class. Copyright provides presenters with the legal right to control the use of their own creations. As noted above, students are not permitted to record the classes. Class materials, including that made available on Brightspace and written notes of the lectures, may not be copied, reproduced, redistributed, or edited by anyone without permission of the presenter except as allowed under law.

Student Feedback

Students are encouraged to provide the instructor with constructive feedback on their learning experience across the course of the term.

Student Code of 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. Read more at: [www.dal.ca/campus life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus%20life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html).

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services 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). Read more at: [https://www.dal.ca/campus life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus%20life/academic-support/accessibility.html)

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 (Strategic Priority 5.2). Read more at: <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Class Schedule

Day / Week	Topic	Readings and/or Assignments
Week 1 January 9	Course Overview & Introduction to Rousseau	Introductory Lecture Discussion of Syllabus, Course Expectations, & Goals <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> , Preface, Part 1
Week 1 January 11	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	<i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> , Part 1 [NB: Please make sure to read Rousseau's notes]

Week 2 January 16	Rousseau, <i>cont.</i>	<i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> , Part 2
Week 2 January 18	Rousseau, <i>cont.</i>	<i>Social Contract</i> , Book I and II
Week 3 January 23	Rousseau, <i>cont.</i>	<i>Social Contract</i> , Book III and IV
Week 3 January 25	Immanuel Kant	"What is Enlightenment?" and "Theory & Practice"
Week 4 January 30	Kant, <i>cont.</i>	"What is Enlightenment?" and "Theory & Practice"
Week 4 February 1	Kant, <i>cont.</i>	Selection from the "Doctrine of Right"
Week 5 February 6	Kant, <i>cont.</i>	Selection from the "Doctrine of Right"
Week 5 February 8	Kant, <i>cont.</i>	"Idea for a Universal History" and "Perpetual Peace"
Week 6 February 13	Kant, <i>cont.</i>	"Idea for a Universal History" and "Perpetual Peace"
Week 6 February 15	<i>In-class midterm test.</i>	
Week 7 February 20	<i>Reading week – no class</i>	
Week 7 February 22	<i>Reading week – no class</i>	
Week 8 February 27	Karl Marx	"Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right," pp. 16 - 25; "On the Jewish Question," p. 26 - 52; "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction," pp. 53 – 65.
Week 8 March 1	Marx, <i>cont.</i>	"Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right," pp. 16 - 25; "On the Jewish Question," p. 26 - 52; "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction," pp. 53 – 65.

Week 9 March 6	Marx, <i>cont.</i>	"Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," pp. 66 - 105; "Society & Economy in History," pp. 136 - 142; "Thesis on Feuerbach," pp. 143 - 145.
Week 9 March 8	Marx, <i>cont.</i>	"Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," pp. 66 - 105; "Society & Economy in History," pp. 136 - 142; "Thesis on Feuerbach," pp. 143 - 145.
Week 10 March 13	Marx, <i>cont.</i>	"The Manifesto of the Communist Party," pp. 473 - 500; "Critique of the Gotha Program," pp. 525 - 541; "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," pp. 594 - 617; as well as "The Civil War in France, Pt. III," pp. 629 - 642.
Week 10 March 15	Marx, <i>cont.</i>	"The Manifesto of the Communist Party," pp. 473 - 500; "Critique of the Gotha Program," pp. 525 - 541; "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," pp. 594 - 617; as well as "The Civil War in France, Pt. III," pp. 629 - 642.
Week 11 March 20	John Stuart Mill	<i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 1-2.
Week 11 March 22	Mill, <i>cont.</i>	<i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 1-2.
Week 12 March 27	Mill, <i>cont.</i>	<i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 3-5.
Week 12 March 29	Mill, <i>cont.</i>	<i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 3-5.
Week 13 April 3	Harriet Taylor & John Stuart Mill	<i>The Subjection of Women.</i>
NB: ESSAY DUE AT 5 PM ON MARCH 30th. Please submit via Brightspace & bring a hard-copy to submit at start of class on April 3rd.		
Week 13 April 5	Taylor and Mill, <i>cont.</i>	<i>The Subjection of Women.</i> Review and Conclusion.

Schedule subject to change at discretion of the professor.

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

Accessibility

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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. 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. (read more: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing:
<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>

- Student Health Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <http://dsu.ca/dsas>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html