

POLI 2410/PHIL 2220
Foundations of Political Thought 1658- 1779
Fall 2013 – Dalhousie University
BUILDING & TIME

Marcella Firmini

Office:

Office Hours:

Contact: Marcella.Firmini@dal.ca (Please allow 24hr response time)

TA Contact:

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 the world.

Required Texts:

- David Boucher & Paul Kelly, eds. *Political Thinkers*
- Stephen Cahn, ed. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*
- *Online Readings* will be posted to OWL site.

Course Requirements:

Midterm: October 24 (30%)

Paper: November 12 (30%)

Final exam: As per Registrar's Calendar (40%)

- No alternative dates for exams will be set except for serious medical conditions
- 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.

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

Plagiarism

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>
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 www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information.

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.

SEPTEMBER

September 5: Introduction and Expectations
TA intro and contact information

September 10-12: Historical Framework: do ideas matter? Why do they endure?
Readings: Cahn 1174 (Pericles' Funeral Oration)

▪ PAPER TOPICS AVAILABLE; See OWL.

September 17-19: Aristotle and the Greeks
Readings: B&K: 81; 84-84; 89-91
C: 169-173; 232 (C7); 242 (C11)

September 24-26: Cicero and the Romans
Readings: B&K: 100-112; 139-147
C: 270-273

OCTOBER

October 1-3: Thomas Aquinas and Arab Scholarship
Readings: B&K: 132-136
C: 297-301; 315 (Q. 96) - 316
Online: [LINK](#) to Avicenna's philosophy treatise

October 8-10: Niccolò Machiavelli – The Prince & The Discourses
Readings: B&K: Chapter 10 (163-183)
The Prince – C I-III; V-VIII; XV-XVIII; XXV (324-327)
Discourses – C 352 (2); 355 (9); 358 (B2); 360 (1)

October 15: HOW TO WRITE A THEORY PAPER – Guest Lecturer (TA)

October 17-22: Thomas Hobbes

Readings: B&K: Chapter 11 (189-205)

C: 373-375 P1 = C 1-3; 6; (IMP 10-15)

P2 = C 17-21; 29

▪ **OCTOBER 24 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

October 29-31: John Locke

Readings: B&K: Chapter 12 (207-224)

C: 446-450; 450-516

NOVEMBER

November 5: John Locke Continued

▪ **November 12: PAPER DUE**

November 12-19: Le Baron de Montesquieu

Readings: B&K: Chapter 14 (245-261)

Online: Links to BK 1- C3; BK 2 – C 1 to 5; BK 3 C 1- 9.

November 21-26-28: Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Readings: B&K: Chapter 15 (263-281)

C: 542-545; 561-586

DECEMBER

December 3: Final Examination Prep

- **Final Exam as per Registrar’s Calendar. Please remember: DO NOT BOOK TRAVEL until you are aware of the date of the final exam.**
-
-