



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**POLI 201**

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT**

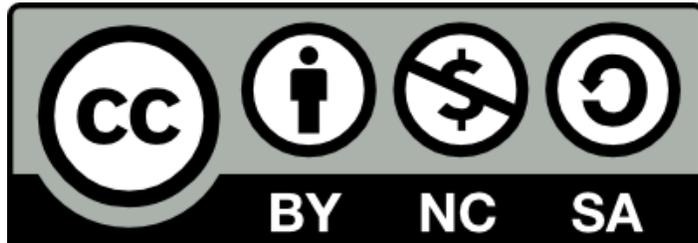
**45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Eric Scarffe, Instructor      DATE: November 10, 2017

APPROVED BY:      DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)



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APPLIED ARTS DIVISION  
Poli 201  
3 Credit Course  
Winter Semester, 2018

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### INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Eric Scarffe, MA, PHD (in progress)

**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

**OFFICE LOCATION:** N/A

**CLASSROOM:** Online

**E-MAIL:** [escarffe@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:escarffe@yukoncollege.yk.ca)

**TIME:** Not Applicable

**TELEPHONE:** (867) 668-8770 (Admin Ast.)

**Dates:** January 3, 2018 - April 25, 2018

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### COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the political ideas that are basic to modern democratic theory and manifested in the processes and institutions of the Canadian system of government. Students will study classical political theory and contemporary developments in Political Science. Students practice critical thinking through exercises such as direct political debate with their peers.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will cover a wide range of ideas that will expose participants to classical political theory as well as contemporary developments in Political Science. The relevance of these concepts to current political issues is established through lectures and in class discussions.

The course endeavors to develop students' critical thinking abilities. Lectures, activities, and class discussion will offer opportunities for all to participate in the process of deepening their awareness and understanding of key concepts and thinkers that have influenced contemporary political thought.

Most universities offer courses that examine particular political philosophers and their works in greater depth. This course is a preparation for more advanced work in the field.

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

None.

## **EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY**

CAMO Psc 210 (3)	CAPU Pol 111 (3)	KPU Poli 1110 (3)
SFU Pol 100 (3) - B - Soc	TRU Poli 1210 (3)	TRU-OL Poli 2xx1 (3)
TWU Pcls 101 (3)	UBC Poli 240 (3)	UFV Posc 100 (3)
UNBC Pcls 2xx (3)	UVIC Poli 202 (1.5)	

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the historical development of political rights and responsibilities and their evolutionary direction;
- Recognize key political thinkers from Plato to Dworkin, and underlying philosophical concepts influencing contemporary political issues;
- Understand the importance of the cultural context in which political change occurs;
- Enhance their potential and desire for political engagement;
- Be prepared to pursue more advanced work in Political Science;
- Develop their critical thinking capacity, written communication and debating abilities.

## **DELIVERY METHODS**

This course will be delivered online. Its' contents will consist of weekly readings (both from the textbook and resources provided online), lectures, discussion forms, and activities. In addition, the course may include videos and links to supplemental materials.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **Attendance**

As this is an online course, your attendance will be measured by whether you are completing the course activities and class discussion forums both in a timely manner (i.e., in time for your classmates to engage you in discussion, not simply the moment before the comment is due). Many of the discussion forums rely on your participation, and therefore your punctuality in completing these assignments, in addition the quality of your contributions, matter greatly.

### **Quizzes**

There are quizzes included for select modules. These quizzes represent 5% of the student's final grade. Keep in mind that students can attempt each of these quizzes as many times as they wish, but only their final attempt will count toward their grade. The intention here is to reward students for reading carefully, and for the quizzes to give students immediate feedback as to how they are doing with the readings and course material.

### **Assignments**

Students will complete three SHORT assignments. Each assignment will be worth 15% of the student's final grade and will be broadly related to the topic and readings of the module. These assignments are intended to get students engaged with the course material and are an opportunity for students to get feedback on their work prior to writing their term paper. More detailed assignment descriptions will be provided on the website.

### **Paper**

Each student will prepare their paper from their choice of the assigned topics. The paper must be between 1500 and 2000 words and will account for 30% of the student's final grade. These papers are intended to showcase the student's knowledge of the course material, as well as the student's original thought.

In all papers, students will be expected to state their thesis, supported it by integrating appropriate assigned readings and class materials, in addition to citing any outside sources they wish to draw upon in THEIR argument. Their writing should demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and analysis of the key concepts covered in the course. Proper referencing and bibliographies are required. Students should expect to spend AT LEAST two to three weeks thoroughly researching and writing this paper. A more detailed description of the paper will be provided when the paper topics are assigned.

An assignment handed in after the due date will be considered a 'late' paper. 5% will be deducted for every late day up to a maximum of five late days after which time the assignment will not be accepted.

Students should maintain a back-up copy of all assignments!

### **Examinations**

There will be no exam in this course. Although it is true that in upper level university courses it is important for students to be able to recall large quantities of information quickly and precisely, for our purposes it is much more important for students to spend time engaging with the text and reflecting carefully. Many students will be understandably excited by the idea of not having a final exam, but keep in mind that when grading exams professors take into consideration the time in which students were asked to craft their answers. Students should note that the same leniency will not be given in the context of their final papers and assignments.

## EVALUATION

The student's grades will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation	20%
Quizzes	5%
Assignments	45%
Final Paper	30%
Total	100%

## TEXTBOOK(S) REQUIRED

Sweet, William. Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain. 2012.

Readings from the textbook may be supplemented with handouts, web resources or articles from books held online.

## COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

1. Computer, laptop or tablet that can run Fuze  
(<https://support.fuze.com/hc/en-us/articles/203435036-Hardware-and-Software-Requirements-for-Fuze>)
2. Recommended WIRED, highspeed internet (See bandwidth requirements: <https://support.fuze.com/hc/en-us/articles/203438356-Getting-Started-Frequently-Asked-Questions%20/>). Students can run a free speed test on their connection to check this, Northwestel offers one, and there are many free speed tests available online to measure bandwidth:  
(<http://www.nwtel.ca/shop/internet/usage-tools>)
3. USB headset (available at Staples, Walmart and The Source locally)  
<https://www.softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/00yiSDVHguwYAo/html> (the library also has four headsets they can rent out, but not available to students without a staff person signing it out on their behalf)
4. Webcam (built in, or separate)

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or [lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

## **THE LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE**

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. The Lorene Robertson Writing Centre is staffed by helpful writing coaches from across the College and offers one-on-one appointments to students in need of writing support.

The Lorene Robertson Writing Centre can help you:

- Get started on an assignment and focus your ideas
- Outline and plan your assignment
- Write clearly, logically and effectively
- Address specific needs and writing problems
- Revise the first and final drafts of your project
- Gain confidence in your writing

For in-person appointments, the Centre coaching office is located in the Academic Support Centre in room A2302. You can also participate in coaching appointments over the phone or online. See the Academic Support Centre schedule for English and writing support times.

## CLASS SYLLABUS

### WEEK            TOPICS AND READINGS

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#### **WEEK 1 (Jan 3-7): Foundations of Political Thought**

Readings: *Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction” (pgs 1-20)

#### **WEEK 2 (Jan 8-14): Tribe to Nation—State of Nature**

Readings:

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to Thomas Hobbes” (pgs 21-25)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, selections from the “Leviathan” (pgs 30-39 and 50-58)

Plato’s Republic, Book II (link provided online)

#### **WEEK 3 (Jan 15-21): Rights**

Readings:

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to John Locke” (pgs 79-85)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, selections from the “Two Treatise of Government” (pgs 90-110)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to Jean-Jacques Rousseau” (pgs 113-124)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, selections from the “On the Social Contract” (pgs 125-141)

**Assignment 1 (Jan-21): Are all rights created equal?**

#### **WEEK 4 (Jan 22-Jan 28): Sovereignty, the State, and International Relations**

Readings:

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to Immanuel Kant” (pgs 161-169)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, selections from the “Perpetual Peace” (pgs 177-207)

#### **WEEK 5 (Jan 29-Feb 4): Women, reason, and the state: the Renaissance challenges millennia old ideas**

Readings:

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to Mary Wollstonecraft” (pgs 221-230)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, selections from “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” (pgs 231-260)

#### **WEEK 6 (Feb 5-11): Dissenters—Bentham and an Introduction to Utilitarianism**

Readings:

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction Jeremy Bentham” (pgs 261-270)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Anarchical Fallacies” (pgs 277-302)

Stanford Encyclopedia to Utilitarianism (link provided online)

**WEEK 7 (Feb 12-18): On Liberty and Utilitarianism**

**Readings:**

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to John Stuart Mill” (pgs 303-313)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, selections from “On Liberty” and “Utilitarianism” (pgs 315-380)

**Assignment 2 (Feb 18): Lifeboat**

**READING WEEK (Feb 19-22)**

**WEEK 8 (Feb 26-Mar 4): Bernard Bosanquet and British Idealism**

**Readings:**

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to Bernard Bosanquet” (pgs 419-435)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “The Philosophical Theory of the State” (pgs 439-456)

**WEEK 9 (Mar 5-11): Jacques Maritain—Man and the State**

**Readings:**

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Introduction to Jacques Maritain” (pgs 457-468)

*Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*, “Lectures on Natural Law” and “Man and the State” (pgs 471-502)

**WEEK 10 (Mar 12-18): Rawls—Contracts and Constructivism**

**Readings:**

Selections from John Rawls’ *A Theory of Justice* (link provided online)

**WEEK 11 (Mar 19-25): Conceptions of the ‘Self’**

**Readings:**

Michael Sandel, “The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self”, *Political Theory*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (1984) pp. 81-96

**Term paper topics distributed**

**WEEK 12 (Mar 26-Apr 1): Charles Taylor and the Politics of Recognition**

**Readings:**

Charles Taylor, “The Politics of Recognition” (link provided online)

**Assignment 3: Persons**

**WEEK 13 (Apr 1-8): The Overlapping Consensus—Human Rights by Agreement**

**Readings:**

John Rawls, “Theory of an Overlapping Consensus”, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol. 7, No 1 (1987), pp 1-25

**WEEK 14 (Apr 9-12)\*: Dworkin, Legal Rights, Political Rights and International Law**

**Readings:**

Ronald Dworkin, *Justice for Hedgehogs*, Chapter 15, “Political Rights and Concepts”

Eric J Scarffe, “‘A New Philosophy for International Law’ and Dworkin’s Political Realism”, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, (2016)

**N.B.** This reading list maybe supplemented to with additional readings or revised as the instructor deems appropriate.

**\*The last day of classes is technically on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, but I will accept outstanding forum posts and journal entries until April 15<sup>th</sup>.**