Course Syllabus

POLI 310 L01 A & B ✧ Fall & Winter 2017/18

HISTORY OF
POLITICAL THOUGHT

Dr. Joshua D. Goldstein

Mon / Wed / Fri 11 – 11:50 am
Room AD 142

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CONTACT INFORMATION & OFFICE HOURS:

Prof.: Dr. Joshua D. Goldstein
E-mail: joshua.goldstein@ucalgary.ca
Office: Social Science Building, rm 728
Office Hours (Fall and Winter):
Tues. 11 am – 12 pm
Wed. 2 pm – 3 pm
Thurs. 2 pm – 3 pm
Other times by appointment.
Tel: (403) 220-6090 (try email first)

TA: Ms. Erica Kunimoto
E-mail: emkunimo@ucalgary.ca
Office: Social Science Building, rm 717
Office Hours (Fall and Winter):
Mon. 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Other times by appointment.
Tel: (403) 220-4181

Course Web Site (D2L): http://d2l.ucalgary.ca
COURSE GOALS:

This course is intended to introduce students to those world-shaping ideas and questions that emerge from the history of Western political thought. We say ‘world-shaping’ because these ideas and questions have given life and direction to the very communities, institutions, and laws through which we pursue our individual and our shared goals. These ideas and questions have also shaped the very goals themselves, and thus how we think of the possibilities of human excellence and human failure. In this way, the ideas and questions of Western political thought form a sea in which all practical politics swims—from the simplest application of force and violence to achieve or sustain power, to those sophisticated philosophic investigations that transform the very nature of that sea of ideas and questions.

Without knowing these ideas and questions, we cannot make sense of our world. We are then, in a sense, asleep to the world. The goal of the course is to awake us to the ways in which, in the West, we have understood and taken-up human possibilities within our political communities. In becoming awake to these possibilities we will be able to more thoughtfully evaluate, criticize, and even appreciate, the full range of options and obligations that political societies make available to us.

Through reading, writing about, and discussing the course material, this course aims to achieve three goals:

1. **Informational**: to have students gain familiarity with the arguments and positions of the thinkers and texts covered;
2. **Analytical**: to have students be able to analyze the arguments for, and explore the implications of, the thinkers’ attempts to set out what they take to be the foundational ideas and questions for a political community and the individuals within it; and,
3. **Critical**: to have students be able to take a careful and worked-out position—both interpretatively within the texts and thematically with regard to the overarching concerns or tensions that run through the material—and to defend that position using the intellectual resources gained in the course.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The best way to explore the ideas and questions that define the Western tradition political philosophy is by directly reading, writing about, and discussing the works of its most foundational thinkers. In this course we will do all three.

The Fall term of the course is spent laying out the classical foundations of Western thought that are laid down by two Greek philosophers: Plato and Aristotle. Through a number of Platonic dialogues—dramatic works, like a play, in which political and philosophic ideas emerge in the course of discussion—we will see how politics is not only set out as an area of reflection for the first time, but also how we might begin to question the assumptions and traditions of our own communities by asking what makes them good and just. When we turn to Aristotle, we will encounter the first attempt to systematically present a science of politics and of ethics, one that attempts to set out two paths that human beings might follow in order to live not just a seemingly good life, but a truly good life. Taken together, Plato and Aristotle offer us a profoundly original and profoundly different way of grounding what is important for us and for the political community.
In the Winter term we explore how this ancient ground for politics is engaged and, perhaps, overturned in modernity. Two thinkers are often seen to be responsible for this destruction of the ancient way of politics: Machiavelli in the early-1500s and Hobbes in the mid-1600s. We will examine each of their most famous works in order to bring out how the ideas and questions of politics are placed on radically new footings. These new foundations could be seen to set the stage for attempts at social transformation that have marked the modern age by placing the individual at the centre of the moral universe. After Machiavelli and Hobbes we conclude by looking at two thinkers—Rousseau and Marx—who both, paradoxically, inspired the great social and political revolutions that gripped Europe from the late-18Cth to the early-20Cth and who also tried to overturn the destructive consequences and distortions of individualism.

Through our explorations of these changing ideas and questions, the course will give you the opportunity to explore the arguments and reasons for thinking about human possibilities—both your own, and those of the society in which you live.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, & GRADING:

Your final grade in the course will be determined by two essays, two quizzes, participation in a discussion group, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. An overview of these requirements is given in the table below. Assignment sheets with further details will be made available on the course's Desire2Learn web site.

The class will be divided into four groups, Orange, Red, Green, and Blue. The names have no significance; ironically, that is their significance. The exact scheduling of your quizzes and papers will be determined by the group to which you are assigned. (Group assignment is done automatically by Desire2Learn based on preferences that you submit.) Once you are assigned to a group, you may not switch to another except under extraordinary circumstances.

The teaching assistant (TA) assigned to the course will be responsible for marking the papers, quizzes, and evaluating the discussion groups. The professor will be responsible for marking the mid-term and final exams for all groups.

Please see the following table for an overview of the course components, including their weighting, due dates, and a brief description.

More information for each assignment will be provided at the appropriate time in advance of the due date. However, please note the following:

- The mid-term and final exams will be open-book: all assigned readings are permitted.

- Problems with grammar and spelling will harm an assignment’s grade only insofar as they substantively interfere with the meaning of your argument and evidence.

- Assignment instruction sheets will indicate whether the assignments are to be submitted electronically through D2L or a hard copy is to be submitted directly to the Teaching Assistant.
## Table: Overview of Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WORTH (% of final grade)</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
<th>LATE PENALTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALL TERM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: Friday @ 5 pm to Monday @ 10 am</td>
<td>Groups Orange &amp; Red: Complete Plato Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Take-home quiz available and to be completed on D2L. Tests your knowledge of specific terms and ideas in Plato’s dialogues assigned up to that point.</td>
<td>Late quizzes not accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: Due Monday @ 11:59 am</td>
<td>Groups Green &amp; Blue: Plato Paper Due</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1250 words max (approx. 5 pages) consisting of your thoughtful engagement with some aspect of Plato's attempt to search for the good life.</td>
<td>-2% of paper grade off per day late, not including weekends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13: Friday @ 5 pm to Monday @ 10 am</td>
<td>Groups Green &amp; Blue: Complete Aristotle Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Take-home quiz available and to be completed on D2L. Tests your knowledge of specific terms and ideas in Aristotle's thought assigned up to that point.</td>
<td>Late quizzes not accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13: Due Wednesday @ 11:59 am</td>
<td>Groups Orange &amp; Red: Aristotle Paper Due</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1250 words max (approx. 5 pages) consisting of your thoughtful analysis of some aspect of Aristotle's thought from the <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em> and <em>Politics</em>.</td>
<td>-2% of paper grade off per day late, not including weekends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Exam Period Dec. 11–21, 2017</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2 hour mid-term exam on Plato and Aristotle. Structure of the exam will be supplied later.</td>
<td>Late quizzes not accepted.</td>
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**WINTER TERM**

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<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WORTH (% of final grade)</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
<th>LATE PENALTY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: Friday @ 5 pm to Monday @ 10 am</td>
<td>Groups Green &amp; Blue: Complete Machiavelli &amp; Hobbes Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Take-home quiz available and to be completed on D2L. Tests your knowledge of specific terms and ideas in Machiavelli's <em>The Prince</em> and Hobbes' <em>Leviathan</em>.</td>
<td>Late quizzes not accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: Due Monday @ 11:59 am</td>
<td>Groups Orange &amp; Red: Machiavelli &amp; Hobbes Paper Due</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2000 words max (approx. 8 pages) consisting of a thoughtful analysis of Machiavelli's &amp; Hobbes' thought.</td>
<td>-2% of paper grade off per day late, not including weekends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12: Friday @ 5 pm to Monday @ 10 am</td>
<td>Groups Orange &amp; Red: Complete Rousseau &amp; Marx Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Take-home quiz available and to be completed on D2L. Tests your knowledge of specific terms and ideas in Rousseau's and Marx's writings.</td>
<td>Late quizzes not accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13: Due Wednesday @ 11:59 am</td>
<td>Groups Green &amp; Blue: Rousseau &amp; Marx Paper Due</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2000 words max (approx. 8 pages) consisting of a thoughtful analysis of Rousseau's and Marx's thought.</td>
<td>-2% of paper grade off per day late, not including weekends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Exam Period April 16–26, 2018</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3 hour final exam concentrating on the Winter Semester, but including some questions that involve Plato and Aristotle. Structure of the exam will be supplied later.</td>
<td>Late quizzes not accepted.</td>
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**ON-GOING REQUIREMENTS**

| | | | | |
| Mon. to Fri., every other week as per Reading and Assignment Schedule | Discussion Groups | 10% | Questions will largely arise from the readings. Postings will be evaluated for: (1) insightfulness; (2) textual support; (3) ability to stimulate discussion; and (4) respectfulness to others. | If the usually-accepted personal calamities prevent you from contributing during your allocated week, you can speak to your TA. |

## Table: Overview of Grading Scheme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>95–100</th>
<th>77–79</th>
<th>67–69</th>
<th>57–59</th>
<th>50–56</th>
<th>0–49</th>
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<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95–94</td>
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<td>A–</td>
<td>80–84</td>
<td>70–72</td>
<td>60–62</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
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<td>B–</td>
<td>70–72</td>
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<td>C</td>
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REQUIRED TEXTS:

You are required to read material from the eight books listed below. You are very strongly encouraged to use the editions specified below. A number of the course text are Oxford World Classic editions (they are marked with a ‘❉’ in the list below). For your convenience (and at a slight discount) you can buy the books bundled together. They may also be purchased individually, if you prefer.


❉ = Included in the "POLI 310 Oxford Custom Course Package"

In addition to all the books listed above, the following readings will be available on-line for free. These readings are indicated in the course schedule.


COURSE SCHEDULE:

On the following pages you will find a schedule of readings and classes for the course. Please note the readings are given for each week, not for each class within that week. Depending on your own preferences, you may find it helpful to do all the readings before the beginning of each week, throughout the week, or at the end of the week. The lectures, however, will be an analysis and elaboration of the readings—not a description of them. So whatever timing you choose (or find yourself adopting) for the readings, you will have to be familiar with them and will be required to demonstrate that familiarity on the tests, papers, and final exam. We will do our best to keep to the schedule of readings below but the schedule is subject to change. Note: only some cataclysmic event will cause a change in test and paper due dates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>WEEK BEGINS</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>REQUIRED READINGS OR SUBJECT MATTER (* = total number of pages per week to be read)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS &amp; DISCUSSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1  | Mon. Sept. 11 | INTRO & GREEK TERRAIN OF AUTHORITY/PLATO | Course Syllabus, □ All of it!  
*Euthyphro*, □ 2a–5d5 [pp. 41–46] {5*} | PLATO |
| 5  | Wed. Oct. 11* |  | *Apology of Socrates*, □ 28b–42a3 [pp. 78–97]  
| 6  | No Class on Mon., Oct. 9: Thanksgiving |  | *Crito*, □ 48b3–54e2 [pp. 106–114]  
Fri., Nov. 3 & Mon. Nov. 6, 2017  
Green & Blue — Plato Paper Due  
Monday, November 6, 2017 |
| 9  | Mon. Nov. 6* |  | *Nicomachean Ethics*, [The Human Good] Bk. I, □ chs. 1–5,  
1094a1–1096a11 [pp. 1–5], □ chs. 7–8, 1097a14–1099b9 [pp. 9–14], □ ch. 13, 1102a6–1103a10 [pp. 19–21] {13*} | Orange & Red — Discussion 3/9 |
| 10 | Wed. Nov. 15* |  | *Nicomachean Ethics*, [Ethical Virtues] Bk. II, □ chs. 1–7,  
1103a13–1108b10 [pp. 21–33], □ ch. 9, 1109a20–1109b29 [pp. 34–36] {14*} | Green & Blue — Discussion 4/9 |
| 11 | Mon. Nov. 20 | ARISTOTLE | *Nicomachean Ethics*, [Intellectual Virtues] Bk. VI, □ chs. 1–13,  
| 12 | Mon. Nov. 27 |  | *Nicomachean Ethics*, [Happiness] Bk. X, □ chs. 6–9,  
1176a30–1181b24 [pp. 190–200]  
*Politics*, [Household & City] Bk. I, □ chs. 1–7, 1252a1–1255b39 [pp. 7–20], [Citizenship & Best Constitutions]  
Fri. Dec. 8 & Mon. Dec. 11, 2017  
Orange & Red — Aristotle Paper Due Fri. Dec. 8, 2017 |

**Dec. 11 – 21**  
**MID-TERM EXAM**  
*The POLI 310 Mid-Term Exam will be scheduled by the University sometime in the Fall Semester Exam Period*
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<tr>
<th>wk</th>
<th>WEEK BEGINS</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>REQUIRED READINGS (* = total number of pages per week to be read)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS &amp; DISCUSSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon. Jan. 8</td>
<td>Intro to Modernity/ MACHIAVELLI</td>
<td>The Prince, Epistle Dedicatory, pp. 1–4; chs. I–II, pp. 5–10 (9*)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mon. Mar. 12</td>
<td>ROUSSEAU</td>
<td>Discourse on Inequality, Dedicatory Letter, pp. 3–13; Preface, 14–19 ; Part I, pp. 20–54 (47*) plus Notes</td>
<td>Orange &amp; Red — Discussion 8/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mon. Mar. 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discourse on Inequality, Part II, pp. 55–85 (30*) plus Notes</td>
<td>Green &amp; Blue — Discussion 9/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mon. Apr. 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>OPTIONAL: Theses on Feuerbach, pp. 171–174 &amp; The German Ideology, “First Premises of Materialist Method”, [read until end of web page]. (12*)</td>
<td>!! Whole Class — Bonus Discussion !! Orange &amp; Red — Do Rousseau &amp; Marx Quiz between Fri. April 6 &amp; Mon. April 9, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mon. Apr. 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Communist Manifesto, pp. 2–26 (24*)</td>
<td>Green &amp; Blue — Rousseau &amp; Marx Paper Due Fri. April 13, 2018</td>
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**Apr. 16–26** FINAL EXAM The POLI 310 Final Exam will be scheduled by the University sometime in the Winter Semester Exam Period
IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY & UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:
Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:
Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams.

Appeals:
If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

University Regulations:
Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:
Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:
Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):
FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:
In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assembypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:
For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students’ Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.
For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Important Contact Information:**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year): Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students’ Union Representatives: Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca:

Students’ Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students’ Association: Phone: 403-220-5997; Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca; URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman: Phone: 403-220-6420; Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca