Department of Political Science

POSC 2100
Introduction to Political Theory

Winter 2016
Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30-11:45. Room: ED 3034B

Instructor: Dr. Dimitrios Panagos
Instructor’s Phone Number: 864-8175
Instructor’s Email Address: dpanagos@mun.ca
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00
Or by appointment (SN 2039)

Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of political theory by focusing on political ideologies. The course begins by highlighting the distinction between political philosophy, political theory and political ideology. The course proceeds by surveying the basic tenets of the most important ideologies of our time (e.g. Liberalism, Marxism, Feminism, Environmentalism and the like) and tracing how these ideologies treat, or fail to treat, topics of interest for political philosophers such as justice, equality and liberty.

Required Textbooks


Assignments

All Students must complete the midterm and final examination. In addition, students must submit an essay and an essay outline OR a test AND a critical assessment (the assignments are outlined below). Those students wishing to submit all of the assignments may do so. The professor will grade all of the assignments and award the student the essay and essay outline grade OR test plus critical assessment grade (depending on which combination results in a higher grade for the student). No other combination of assignments will be accepted.
1. Midterm Exam: The midterm will take place in class. The midterm exam will cover all of the lecture and reading material from the period preceding the midterm.

2. Final Exam: There will be a final examination in this course. The final examination will cover all of the lecture and reading material. The exam will occur during the scheduled exam period.

AND

3. Essay: The late penalty is 5% per day. Consult the guidelines for this assignment included in the syllabus.

AND

4. Essay Outline: Consult guidelines for this assignment in the syllabus. The late penalty is 5% per day.

OR

5. In-Class Test: Students will receive a set of questions in advance of the test and will be asked to answer two of these questions in essay format.

AND

6. Critical Assessment: Consult the guidelines for this assignment included in the syllabus. The late penalty is 5% per day.

ALL assignments MUST be submitted in class. Students who do not submit their assignments in class may turn them in at the Political Science office where they will receive a date-stamp. Under NO circumstances are students to slip assignments under the professor’s office door or leave them outside the professor’s office. These assignments (if the professor receives them) will be considered late. Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted unless students receive permission to send them electronically prior to the due date.

Grading Scheme and Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>March 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OR

In-Class Test 20% March 11
AND
Critical Assessment 20% March 24

Reading Outline

Week One: Jan 7
Introduction

Week Two: Jan 12 & 14
Concept of Ideology

Week Three: Jan 19 & 21
Liberalism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Constant (65-69); James Mill (72-74); de Toqueville (74-78); J. S. Mill (78-85); Green (85-90).

Week Four: Jan 26 & 28
Liberalism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 2: Hobhouse (90-93); Dewey (93-95); Weber (95-99); Keynes (99-101); Berlin (107-112); Rawls (112-118).

Week Five: Feb 2 & 4
Socialism

Week Six: Feb 9 & 11
Midterm, February 11
Socialism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 4: Kautsky (226-229); Ulyanov/Lenin (233-236); Trotsky (236-242); Callinicos (254-256).

Week Seven: Feb 16 & 18
Conservatism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 3: Introduction (119-127); Burke (128-131); von Savigny (134-139); Maurras (142-145); Oakeshott (145-148)

Week Eight: March 1 & 3
Conservatism
Scruton (150-155); Hayek (155-159); Thatcher (165-167); Nozick (170-172); Kristol (172-174)

Week Nine: March 8 & 10
**Essay Outline Due, March 8**
**In Class Test, March 10**
Feminism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 6: Introduction (293-297); J. S. Mill (300-303); Wollstonecraft (297-300); Millett (309-314);

Week Ten: March 15 & 17
Feminism

Week Eleven: March 22 & 24
**Essay Due, March 24**
**Critical Assessment Due, March 24**
Anarchism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 8: Introduction (353-356); Sirner (356-360); Bakunin (360-363); Kropotkin (363-366); Goldman (367-369); Goldman (373-375)

Week Twelve: March 29 & 31
Environmentalism
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 7: Introduction (327-331); Schumacher (335-337); Meadows, Meadows and Randers (338-341); Naess (341-346)

Week Thirteen: April 5
End of Ideology
Matthew Festenstein and Michael Kenny. 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Chapter 11: Introduction (431-435); Lipset (435-437); Fukuyama (437-441); Giddens (441-447)

**Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Memorial University is committed to ensuring an environment of understanding and respect for the dignity and worth of each student and also to supporting inclusive education based on the principles of equity, accessibility and collaboration. For more information on Memorial University’s commitment to accommodation of students with disabilities see: http://www.mun.ca/poilcy/site/policy.php?id=239
Policy on Deadlines and Extensions

All work must be submitted or completed on the dates outlined in this syllabus. Extensions MAY be granted by the instructor for medical reasons or for reasons of compassion. In both cases the instructor will only consider an extension upon receipt of proper documentation (e.g. a medical note from a doctor). Reasons of compassion are events resulting in severe stress such as bereavement. Reasons of compassion do not include unfortunate occurrences like a break-up or a sporting or club event.

Under NO circumstances will the instructor grant extensions to students on the basis of “workload” issues (that is, because the student has other assignments due on the same day or around the deadline; because the student ran out of time; because the student had to work; and the like) or on the basis of failures of technology (that is, because the student’s computer crashed; because the student’s computer got a virus; because the student’s printer broke; and the like). All students MUST retain a hardcopy of their work (essay and critical assessment) and must be able to produce these hardcopies upon request by the instructor until the student receives his or her final grade for the course.

Additional Course Policies

Supplementary instructions that constitute part of this syllabus are available online at http://www.mun.ca/posc/courses/policies.php. This includes information about campus support services, a statement about equity and instructions regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. Students are expected to review this online information and to be familiar with this course’s policies surrounding academic integrity, classroom demeanor, the conduct of examinations, the requirement to use a university email account and the use of recording devices in classrooms.

Tips for Succeeding in Political Science at MUN

eTips (www.arts.mun.ca/etips/) is a website created by MUN political science students with tips about how to do well in political science courses. In addition to written tips there are audio clips and YouTube videos about research and writing, life in the classroom, undergraduate planning and tips for applying to graduate programs. Check out this 24/7 support tool and consider submitting tips of your own to share with others.
Critical Assessment Guidelines

Consult “Grading Scheme and Due Dates” section of syllabus for assignment deadline.

The critical assessment must be based on one week of readings from the course (see outline of readings above). Students should NOT include the readings labeled “Introduction” in their assessments. For example, a student who decides to critically assess the readings from Week Seven will only critically assess: Burke (128-131); von Savigny (134-139); Maurras (142-145); Oakeshott (145-148).

The critical assessment will include two sections: (1) a critique of the readings and (2) a reflection. In total, the written critical assessment should be four pages in length.

CRITIQUE PORTION: How well do the theorists make their arguments? The critique portion of the assignment should be three pages, double-spaced and should focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the major arguments in the readings. The critique may also challenge or praise the logical coherence of the argument, the effectiveness of the evidence and/or examples. Cite specific examples from the texts to support the critique.

NOTE: Commentary on the author’s writing (that is, style, word choice, and the like) is NOT permitted.

REFLECTION PORTION: What do YOU think about the readings? The reflection portion of the assignment should be one page, double spaced and should focus on the implications of the readings. The reflections can take one of the following forms:

- Select a short quotation(s) or passage from the readings and explain its relevance with regards to one of the major themes of the course (such as political authority, justice, equality or liberty) or the relevance to the overall topic of the course – that is, political theory.
- Inter-class connections - place the readings within the context of previous class readings. Do the readings form a significant theoretical debate? How does these readings advance or change the debate?
- Relate the readings to current political events or issues. Make sure you explain why the readings reveal something important about political theory and the events/issues in question.
Political Science 2100

Introduction to Political Theory

“Essay Instructions: Sample Title Page, Instructions and Questions”

Question Number Here

Your Name Here
Your Student Number
Date Submitted
Submitted to: Dr. Dimitrios Panagos
POSC 2100: Essay Outline and Essay Instructions

I. Essay Outline is worth: 5%.

Deadline: Consult “Grading Scheme and Due Dates” section of syllabus.

Late Penalty: 5% per day, weekends count for 5%.

Format:
The essay outline should be 3 pages in length. It should have three sections. Section 1 will outline the general topic and its importance. Section 2 will identify the thesis of the essay and a schematic of the major arguments. This section can be completed in point-form. Section 3 will identify five academic sources and explain how they will be used in the essay.

II. Essay is worth: 35%

Deadline: Consult “Grading Scheme and Due Dates” section of syllabus.

Late Penalty: 5% per day, weekends count for 5%.

Format:
Each essay is to be submitted with a title page (see page 9), text and a works cited page.

The essay must:
- Be 8 to 9 pages in length
- Be typed and double spaced
- Be single sided
- Have 12 point, Times New Roman font
- Have one inch margins
- Have page numbers on every page (except the title page). The page marked “1” will be the first page after the title page.

The essay must include:
- At least 15 references from a minimum of five different academic sources (e.g. academic journals, chapters in edited volumes, books, etc).
- Wikipedia is NOT an academic source. If you are unsure about a source ASK a librarian or the professor.
- Failure to include five academic sources will result in the deduction of marks.

Helpful Suggestions:
- Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the writing centre to review their final draft prior to submission. Students who visit the writing centre will receive a bonus mark.
- All essays will be rigorously assessed for form, content, structure, grammar and presentation.
Make use of style manuals (for guidance on how to cite properly). The instructor will accept either MLA (in text citations) or Chicago Style (footnotes). Use these correctly and consistently.

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their papers with the instructor. The instructor is willing to review essay outlines and the introductory paragraphs of the essays, as long as these are submitted at least TWO weeks prior to the submission deadline.

The student must choose one of the following Essay Questions:

1) Liberals and Anarchists have very different ideas about human nature and government. Outline each ideology’s view and make the case that one ideology has the best conception.

2) Outline the conception of liberty advanced by Feminism and Marxism AND illustrate that one ideology has a superior account of liberty.

3) Ball and Dagger advance a functionalist conception of ideology. Make the case that liberalism or conservatism best fits their understanding of ideology. Be sure to analyze both liberalism and conservatism in your answer.

4) A number of feminists argue that “the personal is political”. Evaluate the validity of this statement. Your answer MUST be based on feminism and one other (that is, not feminist) ideology.

Essays that do not address one of these questions will NOT be graded. If a student wishes to address a different question, the student must receive approval from the professor IN ADVANCE.
POSC 2100 Essay Grading Sheet

Student:_______________________    ID:___________________________

Essay Mark:_____  
Late Penalty:_______  
Bonuses:_________

Thesis Statement  
-Clear Position (1):___  
-precision (i.e. road map provided) (1):___  
-Sophistication (1):___

Introduction  
-Sets context (3):___  
-Illustrates significance of topic (2):___

Argument  
-Strength of evidence (10):___  
-Use of evidence (6):___  
-Diversity of evidence (5):___

-Analytical rigour (12):___  
-Analytical sophistication (7):___  
-Convincing (5):___

Conclusion  
-Restated thesis (1):___  
-Summary of main arguments (1):___  
-Outlines Implications (6):___

Structure  
-Organization of arguments and paragraphs (7):___  
-Transitions (3):___  
-15 References (1):___  
-5 Sources (1):___  
-Referencing (5):___  
-Works Cited Page (5):___

Writing  
-Title Page (1):___  
-Articulateness (7):___  
-Spelling and grammar (5):___  
-Margins (1):___  
-Length (2):___  
-Page Numbers (1):___