Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explore the development of our understanding of liberty and equality vis-à-vis a close reading of important liberal, Marxist and feminist political theory texts. Specifically, the course introduces students to different conceptualizations of these central political theory concepts as well as the opportunity to critically assess their contemporary meaning and utility.

Required Textbooks


All Students must complete a midterm and a final examination. In addition, students must submit an essay and an essay outline OR two critical assessments (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 outline marks OR the two critical assessment marks (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 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 essay is due on November 15. The late penalty is 5% per day. Consult the guidelines for this assignment included in the syllabus.

4. Essay Outline: The essay outline is due on October 25. The essay outline will consist of a thesis statement, an outline of the main arguments and an annotated bibliography. The late penalty is 5% per day.

OR

5. Critical Assessments: Students will critically assess two of the major texts. The assignments are due on October 25 & November 8. Consult the guidelines for this assignment included in the syllabus. The late penalty is 5% per day.

**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>October 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>November 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>October 23</td>
</tr>
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**OR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment I</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>October 25</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment II</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>November 8</td>
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Policy on Submitting Assignments, Deadlines and Extensions

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.

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 demeanour, 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

cTips (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.

Reading Outline
Week One: September 6
Introduction

Week Two: September 11 & 13

Week Three: September 18 & 20

Week Four: September 25 & 27
John Stuart Mill. *On Liberty and Other Essays*. “The Subjection of Women” (524-582)

Week Five: October 2 & 4
**Midterm, October 2**

Week Six: October 11

Week Seven: October 16 & 18

Week Eight: October 23 & 25
**Essay Outline Due, October 25**
**Critical Assessment Due, October 25**

Week Nine: October 30 & November 1

Week Ten: November 6 & 8
**Critical Assessment Due, November 8**

Week Eleven: November 13 & 15
**Essay Due, November 15**

Week Twelve: November 20 & 22

Week Thirteen: November 27 & 29
Critical Assessment Guidelines

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

Each critical assessment must be based on one of the following texts:

Towards a Feminist Theory of the State  
The Communist Manifesto  
On Liberty and Other Essays  
The Sexual Contract

The critical assessment will include two sections: (1) a critique of the text 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. 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 text?  
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 text 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 text 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 3110

Political Theory

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

Your Name Here

Your Student Number

Date Submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Dimitrios Panagos
POSC 3110: Essay Instructions and Questions

Essay is worth: 40%

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

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

Essay Format:

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

The essay must:
- Be 11 to 12 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.

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.

Essay Outline:

The essay outline should be 1-2 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 four to five academic sources and explain how they will be used in the essay.
The student must choose one of the following Essay Questions:

1) What does John Stuart Mill have to teach us about liberty? Make the case that his work is still relevant?

2) What do Marx and Engels’ have to teach us about equality? Make the case that their work is still relevant.

4) How does Catherine MacKinnon’s work impact our understanding of liberty OR equality? Make the case that her work is still relevant.

5) How does Carole Patman’s work impact our understanding of liberty OR equality? Make the case that her work is still relevant.

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 3110 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
-Quality of sources (10):_____
-Strength of evidence (5):____
-Use of evidence (10):____
-Diversity of evidence (5):____
-Analytical rigour (10):____
-Analytical sophistication (7):___
-Convincing (5):____

Conclusion
-Restated thesis (1):____
-Summary of main arguments (3):____
-Outlines Implications (3):____

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

Writing
-Articulateness (5):____
-Spelling and grammar (5):____
-Margins (1):____
-Length (1):____
-Page Numbers (1):_