



COURSE OUTLINE

POLS101

Political Philosophy – Basic Problems

In this paper, political thinkers from a wide range of times, places, and social groups are brought into dialogue with present-day political theory. We ask about (1) how to achieve political order? (2) how to achieve justice? (3) how to achieve cooperation? and (4) how to change the world?

How can we all believe different things about politics and yet each believe that our own views are correct? Looking at both the history of ideas about politics and at present-day political debates, we will see that these differences are if anything more radical than we might have thought. We will think about different styles of political argument, and ask how we can manage to live together as disagreeing equals.

Taking this paper will (1) acquaint you with some of the core texts in the history of political thought, (2) help you identify ways in which they apply to our world and (3) develop your original political thinking. You will be able to demonstrate understanding of some of the core texts in the history of political thought and the ability to think critically - including applying key political concepts to the world as we encounter it.

Semester 2, 2018

Lecturer: Associate Professor Lisa Ellis

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Assessment Due Dates

Short exam 1 (25%) - 16 August

Essay (35%) - 1000 words due 10 September

Tutorial Participation: 5% first six of seven tutorials; 10% final two simulation tutorials.

Short Exam 2 (25%) - 11 October

Terms

In order for your second in-class exam to be marked, you must attend at least 7 of the 9 tutorial sessions. "Attend" means complete preparatory work and participate in the tutorial, including reading discussions for the first sessions, and simulation prep and participation in the last ones.

COURSE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Here is a short overview of our semester's work. Details begin on page 4.

Lecture #	Date	Topic/Activity	Reading	Tutorial	Tutorial Topic
1	10 July	Intro			
2	12 July	Overlapping Consensus exercise			
3	17 July	Lecture	Thucydides	1	How to do political theory, Thucydides
4	19 July	Lecture	Thucydides		
5	24 July	Lecture	Christine de Pizan	2	Christine de Pizan
6	26 July	Lecture	Machiavelli		
7	31 July	Lecture	Machiavelli	3	Machiavelli
8	2 August	Lecture	Hobbes		
9	7 August	Lecture	Hobbes	4	Hobbes
10	9 August	Lecture	Locke		
11	14 August	Lecture	Locke	5	Locke
12	16 August	In-class test			
13	21 August	Lecture	Smith	6	Smith and Hume
14	23 August	Lecture	Hume		
15	11 September	Essay due Monday	Rousseau	7	simulation
16	13 September	Lecture	Rousseau		
17	18 September	Lecture	Bentham	8	simulation
18	25 September	Simulation debrief	Marx and Engels		
19	2 October	Lecture	Nietzsche	9	Modern critics
20	4 October	Lecture			
21	9 October	Conclusion			
22	11 October	In-class test			

Assessment

In-class test 1 (25%), 16 August. Short-answer and essay test covering the material from lectures, readings, and tutorials up to and including 14 August. Short-answer questions will be drawn from the reading preparation questions you receive over the course of the semester and from the lecture materials. The essay question will require you to apply your knowledge of political theory creatively and originally to a contemporary issue or broader political question.

Essay (35%), 10 September. 1000-word essay interpreting one or two of the texts assigned. To be submitted in hard copy to the department drop box (see below for procedure) and electronically via the assignment link on Blackboard. Essays must address an approved topic (to be distributed). These are interpretive essays, not research essays. Any outside sources used must be cited, but students are encouraged to focus narrowly on the assigned texts and their own readings of them.

In-class test 2 (25%), 11 October. Short-answer and essay test covering the material from lectures, readings, and tutorials up to and including 9 October. Short-answer questions will be drawn from the reading preparation questions you receive over the second half of the semester and from the lecture materials from the second half of the semester. The essay question will require you to apply your knowledge of political theory from the whole semester creatively and originally to a contemporary issue or broader political question.

Tutorial participation (15%). Students receive marks for participation in tutorial. 5% of those marks are earned by participation in six of the seven tutorials that do not include the simulation. 10% of tutorial marks are earned by preparation for and participation in the simulation exercise. Note that this paper also has terms requirements: students must participate in seven of nine tutorials in order to have the second in-class test marked.

Course materials

The only and essential text for this paper is *The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought, volume one, From Plato to Nietzsche* (2008). We will use this source in lecture and in tutorials, and refer to it in your essays.

Many of the sources of political theoretical information on the internet are dangerously misleading. Simple glosses of these texts will not help you understand them: the texts are complicated and difficult because understanding politics is complicated and difficult. We will teach you how to interpret these texts yourself. If you have questions about the material remaining after your readings, and after attending lecture and tutorial, ask the lecturer or your tutor for advice. Your first effort should be to read the original material, and your next effort should be to read it again and discuss it with your fellow students. The best secondary material is found at the beginning of each section in the textbook.

Learning Strategies

The readings for this paper are pretty short, but they are often difficult to interpret both because they were written long ago and far away and because they deal with really complicated problems. No one understands these texts on the first read. It is a good idea to schedule regular quiet reading time into your weekly diary. Mark up your text as you read, and not just with highlighter (you can't

write with highlighter, and you should record your reactions as well as impressions of key arguments).

Next, most students will benefit from regular discussions outside class about the material. Ideally you would meet every week with a few fellow students to talk about the readings and the lectures. The more often you talk about an idea, the better you will understand it. Trying to explain a position to someone else also shows you what you do and do not know about the position. Even without a regular study group, you will benefit from just talking about the course material with anyone willing to listen to you (roommates, relatives, friends, anyone really).

The most efficient way to learn a large amount of material quickly is to combine listening to an expert with reading, writing, and most importantly talking about it. To get the most out of lecture, do not treat it like the place to transcribe the text book your lecturer is reading out to you. Lectures are meant to be engaged with, not memorised. Every lecture in this class is available on Otago Capture, so you can always go back if you want to hear some of it again. In lecture itself, try to engage in active, productive learning.

To do that, devote the full 50 minutes of lecture time to focused efforts on POLS 101. This means disabling distracting devices and ideally hand-writing your notes. Your notes should include both information from the lecturer and your own ideas. Your ideas include questions, reactions, and points of agreement and disagreement, as well as ideas for further inquiry and other connections you might make. If you try to transcribe the lecture, you will not have time to think about any of the ideas, and in order to understand the lecture material you will have to start from scratch with your notes.

On the advantages of handwritten notes, see: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

On the inefficiency of online multi-tasking during lecture: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/students-are-better-off-without-a-laptop-in-the-classroom/>

POLS 101 does not ban laptops or other devices. But we do have a politeness policy.

Politeness Policy

We meet three times a week to learn about political theory together. Especially since political theory is inherently difficult, controversial, and occasionally offensive to some, we need to take extra care to establish a civil learning environment in which we all treat each other with respect.

Some tips for respectful in-class behaviour include: 1) Disable all noise-making and other distracting device functions before class begins; 2) Grant whoever is speaking (students especially) your respectful attention (it is not easy to speak in public); this means not looking at your phone while engaging with others in tutorial or lecture; 3) Enable those around you to enjoy 50 minutes of undistracted learning (and so do not put distracting screens up, make noise leaving early, eat food perceptibly, etc.).

Tutorials and lecture are the most efficient way for you to master this material (they might even be enjoyable on occasion): use them wisely!

Reading Assignments

Plan to complete the reading assignment for the week before the first lecture or tutorial on that topic, whichever comes first. The best strategy would be to read the week's text by Monday, listen and talk about the text in lecture and tutorial, then re-read with what you have learned in mind.

Lecture #	Date	Reading (page numbers for <i>The Broadview Anthology</i> . I have not required the introductions to be read, but they are worth reading.)
1	10 July	Get a head start on next week's readings, or browse any of them.
2	12 July	Get a head start on next week's readings, or browse any of them.
3	17 July	Thucydides, Pericles' Funeral Oration (3-7)
4	19 July	Thucydides, Melian Dialogue (7-10)
5	24 July	Christine de Pizan, Book of the City of Ladies, Book of the Body Politic, and Book of Deeds of Arms and of Chivalry (331-339)
6	26 July	Machiavelli, The Prince (346-360)
7	31 July	Machiavelli, The Prince (360-375)
8	2 August	Hobbes, Leviathan (413-426)
9	7 August	Hobbes, Leviathan (426-448; 458-464 [ch. 21])
10	9 August	Locke, Second Treatise of Government (496-510)
11	14 August	Locke, Second Treatise of Government (517-530; 535-538 [13])
12	16 August	
13	21 August	Smith, Wealth of Nations (720-726)
14	23 August	Hume, Of the Original Contract (602-610)
15	11 September	Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality (639-653)
16	13 September	Rousseau, On the Social Contract (664-682; 700-705)
17	18 September	Bentham, Of the Principle of Utility, Offences Against Oneself: Paederasty Part I, and Panopticon, or the Inspection House (877-880; 885-894)
18	25 September	Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto (1031-1041)
19	2 October	Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals (1081-1095)

STUDENT INFORMATION

THIS IS IMPORTANT

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Department's website. In particular, we require you to check out the section called 'Essential Student Information'. You'll find it here: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/politics/study/current-students>. This page provides a number of useful resources such as the Study and Style Guide and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for making online discussion posts and submitting assignments electronically if required, as well as guidance on using Otago Connect and Blackboard. So, it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

GETTING INFORMATION AND ASKING QUESTIONS

Information about the course is communicated to you through the course outline, through emails sent to your student email address, and through lectures and tutorials. **It is your responsibility to ensure that you read the course outline, attend the lectures and tutorials, and read your emails.**

STUDENT EMAIL

The University's online learning tools use your student email address to communicate with you. If you do not wish to use this address, you should forward all incoming emails to your preferred email address. Instructions on how to do this can be found on the ITS FAQ webpage

If you choose to use your student email address for all correspondence related to the online learning tools which your course uses (the default) then it is essential that you check your student email address regularly.

BLACKBOARD

Blackboard is the learning management system used at the University of Otago. It allows lecturers to upload lecture notes, reading lists, assessment information and other course-related material to each paper's Blackboard site so that students may access them. It may also hold things such as additional literary resources, videoconference podcasts, audioconference podcasts, Otago Connect recordings and facilities for online discussion. It also contains functions that enables students and teachers to interact via class announcements, email, discussion boards and tools used for assessing students, such as on-line tests and assignment submission.

To access Blackboard go to <http://blackboard.otago.ac.nz>, login using your University Username and Password. For further help go to the ITS [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you experience any difficulties using Blackboard, contact the ITS Service Desk on 0800 479888 (8.30am to 9.00pm Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 5:00pm Weekends) or email its.servicedesk@otago.ac.nz

REFERENCING SYSTEM

The department does not have a specific referencing style, the emphasis is on the consistent application of the chosen style selected by the student. For recommended referencing styles please go to <http://www.otago.ac.nz/politics/study/current-students/index.html#assessment> and scroll down to Style and Formatting.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments shall be submitted **electronically** via the 'Assignment' feature on Blackboard by **noon** on the due dates notified. All hard copies need to be submitted to the appropriate level box on the 4th floor of the Arts Building. For full instructions about how to submit assignments electronically via Blackboard as well as other important information on plagiarism, grading, and deadlines, please see the 'Essential Student Information' web page.

RETURN OF MARKED WORK

Assignments will be handed back in tutorials or lectures in the first instance. After that they will be available for collection from Politics reception (room 4C12, 4th floor, Arts Building) between 9.00 – 10.00am or 1.30 – 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

PLEASE NOTE: Assignments/exams will only be available for collection during these hours.

PLAGIARISM

All Assignments submitted in the Department of Politics must be prefaced with a student *Plagiarism Declaration Form*. These forms can be downloaded from the Department website <http://www.otago.ac.nz/politics/index.html> under Quick links.

It is also on the Blackboard site for this course. Students should make sure that all submitted work is their own. Plagiarism is a form of dishonest practice. Many students seem to be unsure of what plagiarism is, or why it is penalised heavily. Here is a definition. According to the Senate of the University of Otago: "Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing another's work, whether intentionally or otherwise, and presenting it as one's own (approved University Council, December 2004). In practice, this means plagiarism includes any attempt in any piece of submitted work (e.g. an assignment or test) to present one's own work as the work of another (whether of another student or a published authority)."

The Penalty for Plagiarism

Any student found responsible for plagiarism in any piece of work submitted for assessment shall be subject to the University's dishonest practice regulations which may result in various penalties, including forfeiture of marks for the piece of work submitted, a zero grade for the paper, or in extreme cases exclusion from the University. Students are required to submit electronic versions of all assignments they submit. These will be subject to a plagiarism check.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer.

Academic Integrity Policy - <http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

Student Academic Misconduct Procedures -

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

The '**Essential Student Information**' link on the Department of Politics web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library's resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative enquiries**, please contact:

Malle Whitcombe, Assistant Administrator for Politics.

Email: politics@otago.ac.nz Phone: 03 479 8663

Subject Librarian (Humanities)

Christopher Seay

Office: Central Library: meetings by appointment only.

Phone: 479 8976 Email: christopher.seay@otago.ac.nz

We recommend that you contact the Department as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.

POLITICS DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

All assessments must be submitted through the appropriate box (100-. 200-. 300- or 400-level) in the 4th floor lobby (north). Students must keep a copy of their essay.

A coversheet for attaching to the front of your essays is available on Blackboard, and under the forms section of the departmental website. Ensure that you put your name, student number, paper code, and tutor's name (if appropriate) on the front page of your assignments and essays.

Some papers may have a customised coversheet which you will be required to use instead of the generic department version. Please refer to your course outline prior to submitting your assignments.

EXTENSIONS

Essays must be handed in by the due date unless an extension has been granted by the lecturer in charge of the paper.

The Extension Request form can be downloaded from the Politics webpage, or may be available on Blackboard. Completed forms must be emailed to the Department at politics@otago.ac.nz in advance of the assignment due date. **No retrospective application will be accepted except in the case of serious medical condition, for which a medical certificate is required.**

Extensions will be granted only for the following cases:

1. Ill-health
2. Bereavement
3. Personal difficulties of a serious nature
4. Provincial or national representative activities
5. Job interviews outside Dunedin

Nothing else (such as pressure of other university work) will be accepted as a legitimate reason for extensions. Computer problems do not constitute an exceptional circumstance unless it is an officially notified failure of University equipment.

Your application for an extension **must be accompanied by evidence:**

1. Medical certificate for ill-health
2. Documentary evidence for bereavement
3. Written statement in support of your application from another university officer for personal difficulties of a serious nature
4. Documentary evidence for provincial or national representative activities

No other evidence will be accepted. The evidence must be submitted to the Department at politics@otago.ac.nz, at the same time as, or within three working days after, the application for an extension either in hardcopy or as an email attachment of scanned image.

Applications with evidence does not guarantee the grant of extensions. **The maximum length of an extension is ONE WEEK, i.e. five working days (except the case of serious medical conditions).** Work that is more than one week late without an extension may be commented on but will not be graded.

Late essays in all papers will be penalised by a grade deduction of 5% for each day of lateness. Thus, for example, an essay handed in three working days late which received a grade of 65% (B-) would be lowered to 50% (C-).

QUESTIONS

For specific inquiries about tutorials and tutorial assignments, please write to your tutor in the first place. For more general inquiries about the course as a whole, please write to the course co-ordinator. Please do not write about things that you can easily find out yourself from this course guide, Blackboard, eVision, or the departmental noticeboard (such as tutorial locations.)

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

You will be asked to nominate class representatives who will meet with the Head of Department to provide feedback on each course. This is an important role which is valued by the department and can be added to the service section of your CV. OUSA provide training and resources.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE COURSE

We hope you will feel comfortable coming to talk to us if you have a concern about the course. The Course Co-ordinator will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have. Alternatively, you can report your concerns to the Class Representative who will follow up with departmental staff. If, after making approaches via these channels, you do not feel that your concerns have been addressed, there are University channels that may aid resolution. For further advice or more information on these, contact the departmental administrator or head of department.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Any student should feel free to approach their tutor or lecturer, if they are having any problems or concerns with a course.

1. Student Learning Centre

The Student Learning Centre at the University of Otago provides support for students in reading, writing, study skills, note taking and much more. They even provide individual essay consultations and can assist with your grammar and essay planning. Check their website for information and contacts: <http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/sld.html>

2. Support for International Students

The Department of Politics encourages international students to seek support if they are having difficulties with their studies or meeting other challenges while they are a student at Otago. The Department of Politics contact is Lena Tan, politics@otago.ac.nz

Students can also contact International Student Support:

Telephone: 479 8344

Email: international.support@otago.ac.nz

Website: www.otago.ac.nz/international

Location: Archway West Building

3. Maori and Pacific Students

Humanities Division contacts:

Ana Rangi is the Kaiāwhina Māori – Māori Student Support Officer for the Division of Humanities. She is of Ngāti Porou/Ngāti Kahungunu/Whakatōhea/Ngāti Kuia/Ngāti Koata descent, and originally from Christchurch. Her contact details are: Room 5C9, 5th Floor, Te Whare Kete Aronui (Arts Building). Email: ana.rangi@otago.ac.nz Tel: 479 8681

The Humanities Divisional Office is here to support all Pacific students enrolled in Humanities papers and degrees. They are able to help with:

- Liaising with academic departments and support services with respect to any issues relating to you and your course of study, and
- Facilitate access to pastoral care, student services, course planning advice within the university.

Please contact the Division of Humanities if you have a question, a comment or a concern humanities@otago.ac.nz

The Pacific Islands Centre can help you with academic assistance, scholarships and accommodation, legal and immigration matters – and more. For more information about services for Pacific Islands students please see the University's [Pacific Islands Centre](#) site.

4. Disability support

If you are experiencing difficulty with your studies due to a disability, temporary or permanent impairment, injury, chronic illness or deafness, you may contact, in confidence, the department's support person, or the University support staff (contacts below) to discuss adaptations in teaching and learning strategies and resources that may be helpful.

University Contact: Disability Information and Support

Email: disabilities@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 479 8235

Website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilities>

Library Search Video Tutorial

This 3 minute video covers the basics <https://unitube.otago.ac.nz/view?m=qIU54rkNHj>

Self Help resources

This guide offers tips and techniques in developing independent research & information skills.

<http://otago.libguides.com/selfhelp>

Library Website

The Library website provides online access to resources and services, including the Catalogue, Library Search, Article Databases, Group Room Bookings, Hours, Library Locations, Library News, New Books, Exam Papers, Subject Guides, and more!

Library Website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/library>

Politics Subject Guides

These guides will help you find information for your assignments including articles, books, websites and more! <http://otago.libguides.com/politics>

Ask a Question

Library staff at any Lending and idesk are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm. Try these people first to answer any questions you might have about using the Library and its resources.

Phone: 64 3 479 8910

Email: ask.library@otago.ac.nz

DISCLAIMER

While every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, it is subject to change. Changes will be notified in class and via Blackboard. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard regularly. It is the student's responsibility to be informed.