POLITICAL THEORY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Political Science 362
Fall 2018 Syllabus
(Tentative version August 2018.
Please see MyCourses for the official syllabus.)

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Telephone: 514-393-3077
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, or by appointment.
[Changes to this schedule will be posted on myCourses.]
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*Please note that I generally only answer student emails between 12:00-17:00 on weekdays. Email communication is only for course administrative issues. If you have a substantive, intellectual question, or personal issue to discuss, please come to see me or your TA during our office hours.

**Important course schedule information**
Course lecture schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 am
* Please note that students must reserve the entire course lecture time slot (10-11:30 T and R) throughout the term, in order to accommodate schedule adjustments (see below). Course conferences: Mandatory one-hour conferences will start in Week 4 (September 24). These will be scheduled at various times. Register on Minerva.

**Course description**
This course introduces students to the field of international political theory (IPT), an area of political theory that focuses on questions about justice, rights and responsibilities as they relate to institutions, agents and structures of global, transnational, and international relations. Questions to be addressed include the following: What is the moral significance of the state? Is international order akin to a state of nature? What is the normative significance of the colonial and imperial origins of modern international order? Is colonialism over? What rights and duties do individuals, states, and other agents have beyond their own national or political boundaries? Are there universal human rights, and are they reconcilable with political and cultural pluralism? Are there duties of global justice? Is the global order structurally just? Are the demands of justice in national and international contexts symmetrical? Does global justice require the development of global democratic institutions or a world state? This course will address these questions, from a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches, through exploring arguments in contemporary political theory, with some interaction from texts in the history of western political thought.

**Course prerequisite**
Completion of Introduction to Political Theory (Poli 231 or 232 or equivalent) is required, or explicit permission from the Course Professor. An introductory course in International Relations (POLI 244) is also highly recommended.
Course Materials
The following texts are available for purchase at Paragraphe Bookstore, 2220 McGill College Ave.


Some other course materials listed below will be accessible on MyCourses, while others are accessible through the McGill Library system. It is your responsibility as a student to obtain the required readings for the course, which may require you to look up the relevant articles or book chapters online through the McGill Library system.

Required assignments
- Midterm – Tuesday, October 16
- Paper (2500 words), due Tuesday, November 13 – further instructions will be provided.
- Final exam – scheduled in the final exam period, TBA.
- Conferences are mandatory for all students (see attendance and participation instructions below).

Grade distribution
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm – October 16</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Paper (2500 words, due November 13)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam, TBA</td>
<td>35%</td>
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*You must pass each of the graded portions of the class (Midterm exam, Long paper, Final exam, and Conferences) in order to receive a grade higher than D in this course.*

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Requirements

Please **ensure that you have done the readings by the beginning of the week** in which they will be discussed.

Long Paper Assignment

Paper topics and further instructions will be posted on MyCourses. Please note that only the Course Professor can approve paper topics and deadline extensions.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the **right to submit in English or in French any written work** that is to be graded. Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).
Late paper policy: late papers will be penalized 2/3 of a letter grade per day late. For example, if your paper was worth an A, but was one day late, you would receive a B+ instead. This policy does not apply if you are seriously ill or distracted by a serious emergency, but in the event of such circumstances it is your responsibility to inform me, the Course Professor (not the TA), in person before the assignment is due. Being ill one for or two days before the paper is due, however, will NOT be a sufficient reason to waive the entire late penalty.

Conferences

Conferences will be structured to permit a high level of discussion and the close analysis of texts. It is essential that readings be done before your conference in order to make an effective discussion possible. You are expected to come to conferences prepared to discuss each assigned text; you may wish to prepare talking points for yourself.

Conference Attendance

You get one free conference absence, no questions asked. Use it wisely. (Please note that if you are absent from the first conference, you are absent from the first conference.)

For each conference that you miss after the first, your absence will be reflected in the attendance component of your conference mark by dropping 20%, unless you have made up for your absence in one of two ways. Either you can make up for the absence by attending, with the permission of your TA, another conference in the same week. Or, if not, then you must write a brief reflection essay of 500 words, due at the beginning of the next conference, on the material from the missed conference. A maximum of 3 make-up reflection essays are permitted. This is all your responsibility; do not expect your TA to chase you down for make-up reflection papers.

Conference participation

Your conference participation grade will be based on your regular oral participation in conference discussions. Effective conference participation involves reading the assigned texts in advance, preparing talking points or notes in advance, and sharing points that refer to the texts, raising critical questions or challenges to a thesis presented in the reading, or engaging in interpretive analysis of a text. The Teaching Assistant will provide further guidelines at the first conference.

Other Course Policies

Academic Integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).
**Policy on technology use during lectures and conferences**
This is a manual note-taking lecture course. The use or display of any mobile computing or communications devices (including computers, recording devices, phones, iPads, or iPods) is strictly banned during class, except with the explicit permission of the instructor in exceptional cases. **Exceptions:** Explicit permission for the use of a computer may be granted by the professor in particular circumstances for students for whom its use is justified to facilitate in-class note-taking or learning. You must receive explicit permission from the professor in such a case.

**MyCourses**
You are responsible for checking class announcements made via this course’s MyCourses page, and for any course content made available to you via MyCourses.

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., powerpoint slides, notes, summaries, essay topics and exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

**Communication with the Professor and Teaching Assistant(s)**
The Teaching Assistant will lead the conferences, and do most of the grading of your assignments and final exam. To assist you, they will also hold regular weekly office hours, to be announced on MyCourses. You may speak to your TA or to the course professor during their office hours about any substantive questions you may have about the course material. Email is not an appropriate way to ask substantive questions, so please take advantage of office hours.

**Office for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a disability please arrange a meeting with the Course Professor to discuss your situation at the start of the course. Please contact the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)** at 514 398 6009 (http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/) to receive information on accommodating your needs before meeting with the Course Professor. However, **please remember that the OSD has no authority** to approve changes to course assignment due dates or exam dates, to devise alternative assignments or waive course requirements. If you should have any reason to miss a substantial part of the course (eg three weeks of lectures or conferences), or if you are unable to complete any course assignments or requirements for any reason, it is your responsibility to inform the Course Professor (and not just OSD or your TA) of your situation as soon as possible.
Course Lecture, Reading, and Conference Schedule

Week 1 (2.5 hours of lecture)

Sept 4 (1 hour): Course Introduction

Sept 6 (1.5 hours): International Anarchy

Week 2 (3 hours of lecture)

September 11 (1.5 hours): Anarchy Reconsidered

Sept 13 (1.5 hours): Rousseau on War and Peace

Week 3 (3 hours of lecture)

Sept 18 (1.5 hours): Kant on Cosmopolitan History
- Kant, *Political Writings* [book purchase], pp. 41-92
  - “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose”
  - “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?”
  - “On the Common Saying: ‘This May be True in Theory, but It Does Not Apply in Practice’”

Sept 20 (1.5 hours): Kant on Perpetual Peace
- Kant, Immanuel, *Political Writings* [book purchase], pp. 93-175
  - “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”
  - “The Metaphysics of Morals”
**Week 4 (3 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)**

**Conference 1: Kant and Bolivar**

Sept 25 (1.5 hours): Bolivar

Sept 27 (1.5 hours): Kant and Colonialism

**Week 5 (3 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)**

**Conference 2: Rawls’s Law of Peoples**

Oct 2 (1.5 hours): John Rawls’s *Law of Peoples*: Ideal Theory

Oct 4 (1.5 hours): Law of Peoples and Toleration
- Rawls, *Law of Peoples*, Parts II (pp. 59-88) and IV (pp. 121-8).

**Week 6 (3 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)**

**Conference 3: Colonialism and Indigenous Self-Determination**

Oct 9 (1.5 hours) Historic Injustice and Structural Injustice

Oct 11 (1.5 hours): Indigenous Self-determination and Settler Colonialism
Week 7 (1.5 hours special guest lecture, 1 hour midterm)
NO CONFERENCES THIS WEEK

Tuesday, October 16: MID-TERM EXAM

Thursday, October 18: No class

Friday, October 19: 2:00-3:30 pm, Location TBA
Special Course Lecture: Sheryl Lightfoot (UBC), ‘The Politics of Indigenous Apologies’

Week 8 (2 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)
Conference 4: Human Rights

Oct 23 (1 hour): Human rights

Oct 25 (1 hour): Human rights

Week 9 (2 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)
Conference 5: Just war and civilizational hierarchies

October 30 (1 hour): Vitoria on Just War

Nov 1 (1 hour): Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect


Week 10 (2 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)
Conference 6: Global Poverty

Nov 6 (1 hour): Global Poverty


Nov 8 (1 hour): The Duty of Assistance


Week 11 (2 hours of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference)
Conference 7: Nondomination and Global Justice

November 13: Long Paper Due

Nov 13 (1 hour): Republican Nondomination and Global Justice


Nov 15 (1 hour)


**Week 12** (1 hour of lecture, plus 1 hour of conference) *No class on Nov 22*

**Conference 8:** The Idea of a World State – last conference

Nov 20 (1 hour): The World State


Nov 22 – NO CLASS

**Week 13** (2 hours of lecture)

Nov 27 (1 hour): Climate Change


Nov 29 (1 hour): Course Review