POL2102/490H1S Ideas and Ideologies  
Tuesdays, 6-8pm, Rm: TC 24

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1 Course Description

This course examines the concepts and origins of political ideas and ideologies, with a particular focus on how these concepts and major social science theories surrounding them illuminate aspects of Canadian politics. By the end of this course, students should be familiar with the epistemological, conceptual, theoretical, and methodological challenges that emerge from a nuanced understanding of ideational contestation.

2 Course Codes and Passwords

Twitter  
@cophrane_utsc

Turnitin  
course id: 7350096  
password: Canada

3 Assessment

3.1 Schedule and Weighting

Seminar classes depend on attendance and participation from all students. As such, attendance and participation are required components of this class. Two assignments, worth 25% each, are to be written about the assigned readings for weeks chosen by the student. These assignments are due by Sunday, at midnight, BEFORE the scheduled class, and they are not to exceed 10 pages in length. Students are not permitted to attend class and then submit a late assignment about that week’s readings. A major research paper, which builds on the assigned readings, but extends beyond them, is due to turnitin.com on the last day of class. The major research paper is not to exceed 35 pages in length.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Selected Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Selected Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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3.2 Participation

The participation component of your grade is based on the quality of your contributions to in-class discussion. By the time of your class, you are expected to be sufficiently familiar with the readings and the key concepts to participate in the class discussion.

3.2.1 Essay Late Penalties

The essay assignments are due BEFORE the seminar by Sunday, at midnight. The late penalty is 10% of the assignment value for each day, or part thereof, that the work is late (including weekends). In the interests of fairness, students who have not completed the assignment by the time of their class are not permitted to attend class.

3.2.2 Extensions for Illness

Students who are ill, or who have dependents who are ill, are entitled to a combined maximum of 7 days of undocumented extension, provided that they notify me, prior to the assignment due date, that their work will be late. This is an ‘honour system.’ I do not normally require a letter from a doctor to substantiate an illness. Nonetheless, those who have not submitted their assignment are not allowed to attend class and THEN submit an assignment about that week’s readings.

3.2.3 Extensions for Personal Distress

Students who are dealing with exceptional personal circumstances may be granted one undocumented seven day grace period for assignment due dates, provided that they contact me to inform me of their situation. Decisions about granting extensions in these cases will be made compassionately on a case-by-case basis, but extensions will not be granted for workload issues.

3.2.4 Extensions Requiring Documentation

In the interests of fairness, students who require more than 7 days worth of extension over the course of the semester will have to provide documentation, which accords with University policy re documentation, to justify the extra time.

3.2.5 Statement on Academic Integrity

Students who work hard and play by the rules will not come out of this course with a lower grade than someone who cheats. As the University Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities points out:

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental values shared by students, staff and faculty at the University of Toronto. The University’s policies and procedures that deal with cases of cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, are designed to protect the integrity of the institution and to maintain a community where competition is fair. As a result, U of T treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. If it has been alleged that you committed an academic offense, you will find that the allegation is dealt with formally and seriously, and that the penalties can be severe if it is determined that you did cheat. All of the policies and procedures surrounding academic offenses are dealt within one policy: The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (the 'Code'). This booklet on Academic Integrity is intended to supplement the Code, but not to take its place as the official document on these matters. Nor does this booklet take the place of legal counsel. The full text of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters can be found in your Faculty Calendar or online at www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html.... Ignorance of the rules does not excuse cheating or plagiarism.
All instances of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the University for further review and discipline. For more information, please visit the website of the Center for Teaching Support and Innovation at the University of Toronto: Academic Integrity at the University of Toronto. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me. For your benefit, however, here is just one example of an academic offence:

- A student includes word-for-word a sentence or a part of a sentence from a source, and although they cite the source as a reference at the end of the sentence and in the bibliography, they do not include the relevant passage within quotation marks. This is an example of plagiarism (see The Code) because it is tantamount to a claim that the words and the writing are your own. Changing a few words in a sentence does not resolve this problem. If the writing is from a source, and not from you, it belongs in quotation marks (i.e., “ “).

3.2.6 Statement on the Use of Turnitin

To deter and detect academic misconduct, and to protect the integrity of the grades for the vast majority of students who are honest and careful, this course uses, among other things, turnitin.com, a tool which facilitates an analysis of textual similarities between sources. Thus, students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

4 Texts and Materials

- NOTE: Many books for this course are available online, through the university website, or via Google Books. Here is a list that I recommend that you purchase, though you will be able to find these ones online as well, and there are others that you may wish to purchase for future reference.


5 Class Schedule

Class Attendance: In the event that you have to miss a class, please use the discussion board on the class website to catch up. I encourage you to use this board whenever you have a question, and to monitor this board regularly for an opportunity to answer the questions of others.

5.1 January 7: Introduction

5.1.1 Readings

- POL2012/490H1S Course Syllabus.

5.2 January 14: “The Great Debate”

5.2.1 Readings


5.3 January 21: Ideology

5.3.1 Readings

5.4 January 28: “System One” and “System Two”

5.4.1 Readings

5.5 February 4: Human Nature

5.5.1 Readings
- Plato. The Republic of Plato. Book IV.
5.6 February 11: “Groupishness”

5.6.1 Readings


5.7 February 18: Reading Week

5.8 February 25: Personality

5.8.1 Readings


5.9 March 4: Genes, Biology, and Ideology

5.9.1 Readings

5.10 March 11: The Social Context

5.10.1 Readings


5.11 March 18: Language, Concepts and Categories

5.11.1 Readings


5.12 March 25: Institutions and Organizations

5.13 Readings

5.14 April 1: Systems and Systems Thinking

5.14.1 Readings