

**University of Toronto - Department of Sociology**  
**SOC386H1F - New Topics: Classical Political Theory**  
**Summer 2017**  
**Instructor: Professor I.M. Zeitlin**

**Time: MW 6-8**  
**Location: SS1088**  
**TA Office Hours: By appointment**

There is a tradition in political theory that has come to be called "Classical" because the ideas constituting that tradition have stood the test of time. The authors of those ideas have addressed the most important political issues facing humankind, and have provided fruitful conceptual tools with which to grapple with those issues. Some thinkers have even done more than that by providing valid, trans-historical insights or principles.

**RESTRICTIONS AND PREREQUISITES:** The prerequisite to take SOC386H1F is 1.0 SOC FCE at the 200 or higher level. Students without this prerequisite will be removed at any time discovered, and without notice.

**REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the University of Toronto Bookstore):**  
One text, entitled 'Rulers and Ruled: An Introduction to Classical Political Theory from Plato to the Federalists', University of Toronto Press, available in the U of T bookstore.

To supplement the text, and throughout the course, lectures will consist of comparisons of the earlier thinkers with later and modern ones such as: Tocqueville, Marx, Weber, and the Neo-Machiavellians, Pareto and Gaetano Mosca.

Our aim in all cases will be to assess the fruitfulness of thinkers' ideas, and their practical political applicability to the historical present.

**NOTE:** The instructor would like students to bring the text to every class so that they can follow as he lectures. As well, the instructor advises students to read ahead as much as they can.

**EVALUATION**

There will be four assignments, each constituting 25% of the final course-grade.

Assignment 1 (May 24) .....	25 %
Assignment 2 (June 7).....	25 %
Assignment 3 (June 14).....	25 %
Assignment 4 (June 21).....	25 %
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	<b>100 %</b>

**ATTENDANCE:**

Responsibility for attendance at lecture and all course material rests with students. This includes what the Professor says in lecture, administrative announcements, and course readings. The Professor will be engaging with many ideas, concepts, and theories complementary to, but not covered in, the text. Thus, it is important for students to attend all lectures in addition to completing all readings. Students are encouraged to find a “buddy” in class with whom they can share notes should they miss lecture. All course material may be considered in students' position-papers.

**ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

**WEEKLY REQUIRED READINGS:**

Responsibility for completing the weekly readings rests with the student.

May 15 History and Social Structure of Ancient Greece in the Time of Socrates and Plato

May 17 Plato's Political Philosophy

***No Class on Monday, May 22 - Victoria Day, University Closed***

**There will be lectures and discussions of the texts on the days position-papers are due.**

<b>May 24 - Assignment 1 Due</b>
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Aristotle (Introduction)

May 29 Aristotle (continued)

May 31 Machiavelli and the Neo-Machiavellians

June 5 Thomas Hobbes

**There will be lectures and discussions of the texts on the days position-papers are due.**

<b>June 7 - Assignment 2 Due</b>
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Hobbes (continued)

June 12 John Locke

**There will be lectures and discussions of the texts on the days position-papers are due.**

**June 14 - Assignment 3 Due**

Montesquieu

June 19 Rousseau

**There will be lectures and discussions of the texts on the days position-papers are due.**

**June 21 - Assignment 4 Due**

The Federalist Papers

**ONLINE WRITING RESOURCES**

Visit [www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca) for tips on:

- writing (style, research, organization, grammar, punctuation)
- citing and how to avoid plagiarism
- writing when English is a second language
- reading
- writing instruction and support at the University of Toronto

Visit <http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~nscharer/plagmain.htm> for **“Plagiarism & How to Avoid It.”**

**COMMUNICATION**

Students cannot submit their work by fax, email, or to the receptionist at the Department of Sociology. Emails should be sent to your TA, not the professor.

**TEACHING ASSISTANT SUPPORT:**

The teaching assistant is available via e-mail to answer any questions/concerns students may have regarding course material. Please be judicious in your use of email. Before sending a question by email, be sure to check the course syllabus to see if an answer is already available. Emails should not be seen as an alternative to doing the assigned readings or attending lectures. The TA will not provide answers pertaining to content/announcements made in class. Expect to receive a response from the TA within 24 hours during regular working hours (MF 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.). Additionally, the TA is available to meet by appointment should students require further assistance. Appointments must be made *no less* than 2 business days in advance. Should the request for appointments be substantial, office hours will be held with the times announced in advance.

## **DEADLINES**

Work is due at the start of class on the due date. Late penalties will not be applied to work in this class. **Late work will never be accepted without proper documentation from a student's physician or college registrar (see below).**

## **LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students who miss an assignment due date will receive a mark of zero for that assignment unless reasons beyond their control prevent them from submitting work on time. **Within two days** of the assignment due date, students who wish to submit their assignment late must give the Professor, the TA, or the Undergraduate Advisor in the Sociology Department a written request for special consideration which explains why the due date was missed, accompanied by **proper documentation from a physician or college registrar** (see below). A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student's telephone number and email address) so the revised due date and time of the assignment can be communicated to the student.

## **DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR COLLEGE REGISTRAR**

If you miss an assignment deadline, **do not** contact the instructor or TA unless you have followed the steps described here. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a deadline probably will not help.

- In case of **illness**, you must supply a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). A doctor's note is not acceptable.
- If a **personal or family crisis** prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies).

Place your supporting documentation in a **sealed envelope addressed to Professor Zeitlin**. Submit this envelope along with your work at a class lecture, to your TA during their office hours, or using the drop box for second-year courses in room 225 at 725 Spadina Avenue (if using the drop box, please send your TA an email message to notify them).

## **PLAGIARISM**

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offense face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Also, be aware that submitting the same work for more than one course or assignment constitutes an academic offense. Similarly, students who fail to demonstrate adequate referencing in accordance with UofT policies are also at risk of committing an academic offense. Familiarize yourself

with an acceptable referencing style (APA/ASA).

**Please carefully review the University of Toronto document: “How Not to Plagiarize” <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.**

**Each assignment must be submitted twice:**

- (1) an electronic copy uploaded to Blackboard at the start of class on the due date;
- (2) online at ***<http://www.turnitin.com>***, by the start of class on the due date.

Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will receive a grade of zero (0 %).

Go to ***<http://www.turnitin.com>*** to submit your assignment online. For access, enter the **class ID** and **enrolment password** (you will receive these before your first assignment is due). Students agree that by taking this course all required assignments 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: <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/conditions-use.htm>

## **ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES**

Assignment questions will be provided to students no less than the week before they are due. Answers should be submitted by the required due date/time electronically via Blackboard.

Students will be expected to complete four assignments in this course. These assignments will consist of 3 short answer questions and 1 long answer essay style question. The main objective of the assignment is to critically engage course material (both from the text *and* lecture) by answering questions clearly and concisely, and not to simply summarize the course material. All answers should be in students' own words (see above section on Plagiarism).

### **Short Answer Questions - 5 marks each**

Each assignment will consist of 3 short answer questions. Answers to these questions will be approximately 1-2 paragraphs in length. A strong answer will answer the question directly and concisely engaging course material. All answers must be in the students' own words and not engage direct quotes (from the thinker discussed, the text, or the lecture).

### **Long Answer Questions - 10 marks each**

Each assignment will also consist of 1 long answer essay-style question. Answers to this question will be 2 pages in length. A strong long answer will critically engage the course material, not simply summarize it. All answers must be in the students' own words and reference appropriately where required (see above section on Plagiarism).

### **Assignment Format**

All assignments should be submitted in 12pt font (i.e., Times New Roman), with 1 inch margins, and double spaced.

### **TIPS ON WRITING STRONG ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS**

- Answers must be polished and clearly written, using full sentences and proper grammar.
- Ensure your answers are logical and well-organized.
- Back up claims with arguments and examples.
- A long-answer question may ask you to compare and contrast. This is an analytical approach - you must still provide a critical argument/thesis around which your answer is developed.
- A longer answer is not necessarily a better answer. Write concisely.
- We are interested in your reasoning as well as your intellectual creativity. So, make your assessment *fair* (consider the positive as well as the negative), *insightful* (do not state the obvious), and *comprehensive* (do not miss the forest for the trees).
- To do well on assignments, clearly engage both text and lecture material.

**NOTE:** The instructor would like students to bring the text to every class so that they can follow as he lectures. As well, the instructor advises students to read ahead as much as they can.