



Lakehead University  
*POLI 3517 (2022WA)*  
*Modern Political Thought*  
Monday and Wednesday 11:30-1:00

**Professor:** Dr. Patrick Cain (Political Science)

**Contact Information:** Given the current Covid restrictions, most course related questions are best asked before, during, or after live class meeting times. If this is not practical, send an email and an appointment can be set up if necessary. The professor attempts to respond quickly to emails, so if you do not receive a reply within 3 business days, please follow up with an additional email.

**Required Texts/Resources:**

1. From bookstore: Jane Austen, *Emma* (Norton Critical Edition)
2. A free Perusall.com student account: use course code **CAIN-RZ4JJ**
3. For purchase from Perusall Course Website. As of last check, prices are:
  - a. Strauss, *Three Waves of Modernity* (free and already loaded)
  - b. Machiavelli, *The Prince* (\$8.56)
  - c. Hobbes, *Leviathan* (\$8.00)
  - d. Austen, *Emma* (\$2.50)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES**

This course is a lecture course with an emphasis on student experiential learning and participation through a number of formats and exercises. Its primary aim is not to cover specific information or to provide students with pre-arranged sets of learned material. Rather, this course is meant to develop and enhance students' ability to: (a) freely partake in the art of thoughtful and reasoned discussion about the most important human questions; (b) produce reasoned and well organized writings about the most important human questions; (c) read, analyze, and consider important and complex texts with care and insight, attempting to understand them as they were understood by the authors themselves, while reflecting on how their insights might illuminate and guide our own lives.

Of special concern to us will be a careful examination of landmark concepts in modern political philosophy, primarily through the study Nicolo Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, and Jane Austen. Machiavelli and Hobbes are key architects of modern politics; they lay the groundwork for a new

technological political science that attempts to control human and non-human nature in order to secure the pursuit of individual pleasures, especially material goods. Austen offers an alternative to the modern project by emphasizing the relational side of the human person, especially as it relates to human excellence, familial life, and friendship. Through a careful reading of these thinkers, we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of modernity and its bearing on political and social life today.

### **Grading and Assignment Details:**

Reading, Annotation and Discussion on Perusall.com: 35%

Chapter Paper and Presentation: 2 X 12.5% = 25%

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Take Home Exam: 25%

#### *Perusall.com Daily Reading/Annotation/Discussion*

Students will set up an account on Perusall.com (tutorial to be given during the first class).

Assignments posted to Perusall will require students to read, annotate and discuss each class day's readings before the class meeting time.

Each Perusall assignment will ask students to read, annotate and engage in written discussion about the assigned readings for the day. These assignments will encourage, develop and measure students' engagement of the assigned readings in preparation for class time, especially the degree to which students engaged assigned reading and one another in preparation for in-person discussion. Therefore these assignments cannot be made up or handed in late.

Students are expected to complete all Perusall assignments. However, to accommodate incompletes caused by difficult circumstances (like sickness), the five lowest of these scores will be dropped, so that only the top fifteen scores (out of twenty in total) will count toward the final grade. Thus, each counted Perusall assignment will be worth 2.34% of the final grade (15 days X 2.34% per assignment = 35%). Assignment quality expectations will increase as the course begins and students develop their skills.

#### *Chapter Papers and Presentations*

Students will sign up for two readings sets of readings: one from *The Prince* or *Leviathan*, and one from *Emma*. Students should prepare a 700-800 word essay that makes an argument about the importance of the and present that paper to classmates by reading a 5-minute version of their paper. Each paper is worth 7.5%, and each presentation is worth 5%. More details to be provided.

#### *Take Home Exam*

There will be a take-home exam.

#### *Participation*

For class meetings all students are expected to:

1. Attend having read assigned material carefully
2. Be prepared to discuss the readings

3. Bring the hard copies of the readings to class
4. Discuss the readings with fellow students during class time
5. Stay focused on the class discussion; use of electronic devices is prohibited
6. Avoid: (a) excessive absences and tardies; (b) private conversations; (c) being inattentive and/or appearing inattentive.

In addition to demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the assigned readings, to achieve a high participation mark, students should participate with regularity, integrating the readings into the discussion in a way that (a) primarily responds to the readings (b) recognizes the contribution of others to the discussion; and (c) moves forward our consideration of the reading and the issues at hand. Students are free to voice and defend controversial opinions about the intellectual questions at stake, either because they think them true, or for the sake of exploring the strength or weakness of conventional opinion (e.g. playing "devil's advocate").

#### *Zoom Participation Guidelines*

When using Zoom students must follow the class guidelines of the professor, including following guidelines regarding the use of the video function, chat, annotation, breakout rooms, and other Zoom functions. Student cameras must remain on while in meetings.

**Class Readings:** This course readings involve complex ideas and arguments. Moreover, the presentations of these ideas and arguments sometimes take forms that may be unfamiliar to students. To grasp their content and prepare for reading quizzes and discussion students should read the assigned texts carefully, slowly, and at least several times before class time. Papers and the exam will also require students to focus on class texts.

#### **Other Policies:**

##### *Recording of Classes is Prohibited*

To protect the security and freedom of all members of the class, and the intellectual property of the professor, no audio or video recording of the class is allowed without the written permission of the professor, which likely will not be given. If recording is permitted, it will be strictly for private use and cannot be shared with others without the written permission of the professor.

##### *Communication*

The professor will regularly communicate with students about a variety of matters, both through in-class announcements and via email (using students' Lakehead email account).

##### *Academic Honesty*

Academic honesty is expected of all Lakehead University students. Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to make themselves fully familiar with Lakehead's policies in this area. Although all these policies will be enforced in full, it is worth emphasizing the following:

Plagiarism involves presenting another's work, ideas, theories, or interpretation as one's own.

To avoid plagiarism, writers should always:

1. Put quotation marks around any words from sources
2. Paraphrase material completely; changing or rearranging a few words or the tense of a verb is NOT paraphrasing.
3. Give accurate and complete citations for all material including paraphrased material.
4. Avoid borrowing entire arguments or approaches to a subject from another writer. Make it 'original' while staying faithful to the assignment parameters.

#### *Accessibility and Accommodation*

Students with accessibility issues or with requested accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>.

### READING SCHEDULE

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| 1/10 | Course Outline and Introduction   |
| 1/12 | Strauss, <i>Three Waves of Modernity</i> , 81-89<br><b>Chapter Paper/Presentations Sign-up Day (in-class)</b>   |
| 1/17 | Strauss, <i>Three Waves of Modernity</i> , 89-end   |
| 1/19 | <i>The Prince</i> , ch. 1-8   |
| 1/24 | <i>The Prince</i> , ch. 9-15  |
| 1/26 | <i>The Prince</i> , ch. 16-21   |
| 1/31 | <i>The Prince</i> , ch. 22-26   |
| 2/2  | <i>Leviathan</i><br>"Epistle Dedicatory and Introduction"<br>Ch. 8 (Sec. 1-20 only): "Of the Virtues Commonly Called Intellectual"<br>Ch. 10: "Power, Worth, Dignity Honor and Worthiness"  |
| 2/7  | <i>Leviathan</i><br>Ch. 11: "The Difference of Manners"<br>Ch. 13: "The Natural Condition of Mankind"<br>Ch. 14, Sec. 1-4: "The First and Second Natural Laws"  |
| 2/9  | <i>Leviathan</i><br>Ch. 14: "The First and Second Natural Laws"<br>Ch. 15, Sec. 1-7, 21-24: "Other Laws of Nature"<br>Ch. 17: "Causes, Generation and Definition of Common-Wealth"<br>Ch. 18: "Rights of Sovereigns by Institution" |

- 2/14 *Leviathan*  
Ch. 21: "Liberty of Subjects"  
Ch. 26, Sec. 1-13, 23-24, 44: "Of Civil Laws"  
Ch. 27: "Of Crimes, Excuses, and Extenuations"  
Ch. 28: "Of Punishments and Rewards"
- 2/16 Catch up Class
- 2/21 STUDY BREAK  
2/24 STUDY BREAK
- 2/28 *Emma*, Vol. 1, chapters 1-2
- 3/2 *Emma*, Vol. 1, chapters 3-10
- 3/6 *Emma*, Vol. 1, chapters 11-18
- 3/9 *Emma*, Vol. 2, chapters 1-6
- 3/14 TBA
- 3/16 *Emma*, Vol. 2, chapters 7-13
- 3/21 *Emma*, Vol. 2, chapters 14-18
- 3/22 *Emma*, Vol. 3, chapters 1-6
- 3/28 *Emma*, Vol. 3, chapters 7-13
- 3/30 *Emma*, Vol. 3, chapters 14-17
- 4/4 *Emma*, Vol. 3, chapters 18-19
- 4/6 Catch up and Review