



Lakehead University
Film, Literature, and Political Thought (2016)
POLI-4911-WA
M 11:30-2:30

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Cain (Political Science)
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Office hours: M/T/Th 2:30-3:00 (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The principal aims of this course are:

1. To appreciate how dramatic masterpieces do not simply entertain but also treat fundamental questions of human and political life and why political theorists might benefit from studying literature and film
2. To develop the ability to read, analyze, and write about drama from such a perspective
3. To appreciate the differences between political orders and the ways in which they encourage different virtues and ways of life
4. To understand how poets have reflected on questions raised by the political experience: questions about the state of nature and civil society, individual rights, human freedom, equality, and self-government

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts:

Books

Aristotle, *On Poetics* (St. Augustine's Press), translated by Michael Davis
Griffith, Grene, Lattimore (ed.), *Greek Tragedies 3* (University of Chicago Press)
Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (Norton) (but any edition will do)
Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Norton) (but any edition will do)

Films through Criterion Collection

Rashomon (1950)
Strangers on a Train (1951)
High Noon (1952)
The Lives of Others (2006)

Other Films

Metropolitan (1990)

Rear Window (1954)

Rope (1948)

Grading:

2 Reading Assignments: 2 X 10% = 20%

1 Paper: 20%

In-Class Presentation/Discussion Questions: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

Participation: 20%

Reading Assignments

Students must select and complete 2 papers from a list to be distributed. For each paper, students are required to formulate a 5-6 page essay (1250-1500 words) in response to a prompt that will be related to a portion of a class day's readings. No more than one paper can be completed a week. Students will submit hard copies of their papers at the beginning of class time on the prescribed date. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. If a paper cannot be completed on time, then students should select a different topic to complete.

In-Class Presentation/Discussion Questions

Students are required to prepare one set of discussion in response the assigned readings/films for one week of classes (3-5 questions should be sufficient). Students will sign up for a topic. Questions must be gone over with the instructor in person, at least one week prior to the presentation date. Students will present their questions in class and distribute a copy of the questions to each fellow student.

Term Paper and Final Exam

Details to be distributed.

Class Participation

Although the instructor will occasionally lecture, the majority of class will be spent discussing the assigned readings. Students are expected to fully participate in this discussion. To do so, students should: 1. Read assigned material carefully; 2. Bring the readings to class; 3. Be prepared to discuss the readings; 4. Avoid being inattentive and/or appearing inattentive. Although the instructor will facilitate discussion in a number of ways (such as playing "devil's advocate"), students should be prepared enough to drive the discussion themselves.

In order to facilitate discussion, and in order to allow the lectures to be executed in the most effective manner, students are required to follow the seating direction of the instructor.

Class Readings

The readings from this course can involve complicated ideas and difficult arguments. Moreover, the presentation of these ideas and arguments sometimes take forms that may not be familiar to students. Students should therefore read the assigned readings carefully, slowly, and several times in order to grasp their content.

Other Policies:

Communication

The instructor will regularly communicate with students about a variety of matters, both through in-class announcements and via email (using students' Lakehead email account). Students are encouraged to contact the instructor with any questions that arise during the course of the year. While course administrative questions are appropriate, students are also encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss questions related to the course's field of study. Students are reminded that while email is useful for basic factual inquiries, more complex matters are best handled in person.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones should be left at the front of the class, or should not be visible to the instructor (e.g. placed in a bag or purse). If a cell phone is visible, the instructor will assume that it is being used. Laptop use is not allowed without permission. No audio or video recording of the class is allowed without the permission of the instructor, and any permitted recording is for private use only. Regular use of electronic devices without permission will significantly diminish a student's participation mark.

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 policy 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 (with the help of a thesaurus) 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: At the instructor's discretion, readings may be added, and the schedule altered

Jan 4	Course Outline
Jan 11	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> , appendices, chapters 1-8 <i>High Noon</i> (1952) <i>Metropolitan</i> (1990)
Jan 18	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> , chapters 9-17 <i>Rear Window</i>

Jan 25	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> , chapters 18-end <i>Rashomon</i>
Feb 1	Sophocles, <i>Philoctetes</i>
Feb 8	Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i>
Feb 15	Family Day Holiday (no classes)
Feb 22	<i>Rope</i> <i>Strangers on a Train</i>
Feb 29	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth</i>
March 7	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth</i> <i>The Lives of Others</i>
March 14	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i>
March 21	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i>
March 28	Easter Monday Holiday
April 4	TBA Term Paper Due

FINAL EXAM