



Lakehead University
Political Rhetoric and Statecraft (2018)
POLI-4911-WA
T 11:30-2:30

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Cain (Political Science)
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“Of all the talents bestowed upon men, none is so precious as the gift of oratory. He who enjoys it wields a power more durable than that of a great king. He is an independent force in the world. Abandoned by his party, betrayed by his friends, stripped of his offices, whoever can command this power is still formidable.”

-Winston Churchill

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The principal aims of this course are:

1. To understand and appreciate the character and power of rhetoric including its proper place in the practice of politics.
2. To comprehend how statecraft may utilize rhetoric to transform existing political orders, for good and for ill.
3. To develop the ability to deliver, engage, analyze, and understand political speeches, and to give practical experience in accomplishing these tasks.
4. To analyze and compare the differences between political orders, and the ways in which they encourage different virtues and ways of life, and influence the practice of politics.
5. To engage, analyze, and comprehend the statesmanship and political philosophy of Abraham Lincoln and Aristotle.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts:

Aristotle, *Aristotle's Rhetoric*, translated by Sachs (Focus Philosophical Library)
Harry V. Jaffa, *Crisis of the House Divided* (University of Chicago Press)
Readings found on the course website.

Grading:

2 Papers: 2 X 20% = 40%

In-Class Speech/Discussion Questions: 7.5%

Take-Home Portion of Final Exam: 20%

Oral Portion of Final Exam including written speech (during scheduled exam time): 10%

Participation: 22.5%

Papers

Students must select and complete 2 papers. Topics and details to be distributed. Due dates on the course schedule.

In-Class Speech/Discussion Questions

Students are required to deliver a 5-minute recitation of an assigned speech, and two discussion questions based on the day's readings. A signup sheet will be posted with further details. A maximum of three students will be allowed to sign up for each class meeting time.

Final Exam

Take home portion: Essay format--details to be distributed.

In person portion: Each student write (in advance) and deliver (during the scheduled exam period) a five minutes speech on a political policy question. The written version of the speech will be handed in at the exam. Further 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

Laptop and cellphone use is not allowed. 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. Violation of these policies 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 9	Course Outline Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , book 10, chapter 9 Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , book 1, chapter 2
Jan 16	Aristotle, <i>Rhetoric</i> , book 1 chapters 1-3 Martin Luther King Jr., <i>I Have a Dream</i> Frederick Douglass, <i>Lincoln's Funeral Oration</i> Harry V. Jaffa, <i>House Divided</i> , preface, chapter 1
Jan 23	Aristotle, <i>Rhetoric</i> , book 1, ch. 4-9 Lincoln, <i>Lyceum Address</i> Harry V Jaffa, <i>House Divided</i> , chapters 2-3
Jan 30	Aristotle, <i>Rhetoric</i> , book 1, ch. 10-15 Lincoln, <i>Peoria Speech</i> , October 16, 1854 Lincoln, <i>Temperance Address</i> Harry V. Jaffa, <i>House Divided</i> , chapters 4-8

- Feb 6 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 2, ch. 1-5
 Lincoln, *Speech on the Dread Scott Decision*, June 28, 1857
 Lincoln, *Lyceum Address* (NOT to be used for a speech or discussion questions)
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapter 9
- Feb 13 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 2, ch. 6-9
 Lincoln, *House Divided Speech*, June 16, 1858
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapter 10
- Feb 16**
(not a class) 1st Paper Due
- Feb 20 February Break
- Feb 27 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 2, ch. 10-16
 Lincoln, *Lincoln/Douglas Debates*
Melian Dialogue
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapters 11-13
- March 6 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 2, ch. 17-22
 Lincoln, *Cooper Union Address*, February 27, 1860
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapter 14
- March 13 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 2, ch. 23-26
 Lincoln, *New Haven Address*, March 6, 1869
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapter 15
- March 20 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 3, ch. 1-12
 Lincoln, *1st Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1861
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapter 16
- March 27 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, book 3, ch. 12-19
 Lincoln, *Gettysburg Address*, November 19, 1863
 Pericles, *Funeral Oration*
 Churchill, *Finest Hour*, selection
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapter 17
2nd Paper Due
- April 3 Lincoln, *2nd Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1865
 Harry V. Jaffa, *House Divided*, chapters 18-20

FINAL EXAM