



POLITICAL SCIENCE 2510WAO Winter 2020
ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT
Monday and Wednesday 10:00AM-11:30AM OA2018
DR. D. WEST dwest@lakeheadu.ca

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

This course will cover major contributions to Western political thought through a survey of ideas that present the history of politics in Classical, Medieval and modern Western societies. The development of ideas about justice, history, philosophy, the state, the state of nature, property and human rights and political action provide the foundation for the Western perspective on the world. We will examine these ideas through the exposition of a number of specific themes that connect them to our more modern discourse about the nature of political action and ideology.

GRADING:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION.....10%

MID-TERM TEST.....30%

(A test consisting of a choice of 2 out of 5 essay questions will take place on **February 12th** in class.)

ESSAY30%

(The essay topics will be discussed in class.) The aim will be to connect political philosophy to contemporary circumstances. Essay is due **March 25th** at midnight
dwest@lakeheadu.ca

TERM ASSIGNMENT30%

The TERM ASSIGNMENT will consist of a number of comparative essay questions (probably three of six) which require students to discuss the ideas we cover in the course. It will be available on **March 30th on the D2L site for this course and submitted by April 1st** to dwest@lakeheadu.ca

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

(2016) Wolff, Jonathan. An Introduction to Political Philosophy. London: Oxford, 3rd edition.

Available at the Alumni Bookstore on Campus

Any form of “Academic Fraud” as outlined in the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures (see also University Calendar Regulation IX) will not be tolerated in this course.

Late assignments will be downgraded 1% per day late unless accompanied by a doctor’s note.

Class Schedule

January 6th - 8th Introduction to Political Philosophy

Reading: Wolff Introduction

January 13th -22nd – The State of Nature

Reading: Wolff pp.6-33.

January 22nd - 29th - Justifying the State

Reading: Wolff pp.34-61.

February 3rd – 12th – Who Should Rule?

Reading: Wolff pp. 62-103.

Mid-term Examination – February 12th in class

February 24 – March 4th – The Place of Liberty

Reading: Wolff pp. 104-133.

March 9th - 18th – The Distribution of Property

Reading: Wolff pp. 134-178.

March 23rd - April 1st – Justice for Everyone, Everywhere?

Reading: Wolff pp. 179-215.

Supplementary Material will be available on the D2L site for this course.