POLITICAL THEORY (POLS*2000 DE)

Department of Political Science
University of Guelph
Winter 2019

Course Description

The course is an introduction to Political Theory, which is a major subfield in the discipline of political science. As a distinctive form of study, political theory is concerned with normative issues that arise from politics. The guiding question for all political theorists is the question of how a polity ought to be constructed. Typically a political theorist breaks down the question into a number of related issues, such as the nature and extent of political power, the purpose of the state and the place of individuals in a polity. Related to these issues are concepts such as equality, freedom, and justice. The course aims to provide a systematic examination of these basic issues and concepts through the works of a wide range of thinkers.*

Course Requirements

1. Participation (10%)
2. Quizzes (15%)
3. Midterm Assignment (15%)
4. Review Essay (20%)
5. Final Examination (40%)

Required Texts


Instructor: Professor Theresa Lee

* Though offered as an online course, POLS2000 DE is both reading and writing intensive.