



University
of Victoria

POLI 433: Medieval Political Theory in Our Time

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Simon Glezos

Course delivery: POLI 433 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description: Although frequently treated as backward and irrelevant to our world, the medieval period has much to teach us (especially as we enter an uncertain future, in which many of the institutions and dynamics of the 'modern' period have begun to shift and decline). In this seminar we will turn to Medieval political theory for insight into the political present and future, looking at forms of lordship and serfdom (in the context of rising economic and political inequality); peasant revolts (in regards to mass social movements); strands of apocalyptic theology (in the face of climate change); dealing with the fallout of the black death (in response to our own pandemic present); and tracing the lines of the silk road(s) (in thinking about modern economic globalization). We will also turn to the Middle Ages to look at its global dimensions, to remind us that so called 'globalization' is not a new phenomenon. We will therefore potentially read texts from and about the Islamic golden age; the Mongol Khanate; and Chinese, Indian, African, and Mesoamerican empires.

Prerequisites: One of either Poli 300A, 300B, or 300C, or permission from the instructor

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop writing and seminar presentation skills
- Become familiar with different strands of Medieval political thought
- Engage critically with texts and ideas related to a variety of fields and theories
- Develop engagements through in-class discussions and written assignments

Topics may include:

Aristocracy
Peasant Revolts
Apocalypticism
Medieval Globalization
Non-Western Political Thought

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.