

**ARTSSCI 4IH3 / Contemporary Intellectual History Inquiry
2016-17 (Term 1)**

Dr. Louis Greenspan

Office Hours: Mon. 2:30-3:30pm or by appointment, UH-B114

Email: greenspn@mcmaster.ca

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION

Lectures: Friday 2:30PM-5:20PM, UH 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be introduced to issues that help define the twenty first century through close readings and discussion of authors and texts that have formulated the agendas of our times. The issues; “the rise and decline of a liberal world order,” “the digital age,” “the resurgence of fundamentalist religion,” and “scepticism concerning moral and religious truth,” emerged, sometimes dramatically, in the closing decades of the twentieth century. Yet they remain landmarks in the intellectual turbulence of the twenty first century. Typically the writings are controversial and offer us several views of each topic. The aim of the course is to bring students to clear understandings of the issues, to the habit of relevant discussion and to the practice of making informed judgments on complex and volatile subjects.

TEXTS

Malise Reuthven: A Short Introduction to Fundamentalism (OUP)
Course Pack

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation	20%
3 Responses (750 words each)	45% (due 30 Sept., 21 Oct., 25 Nov.)
Journal	10% (due 2 Dec.)
Final Essay	25% (due 16 Dec.)

SCHEDULE

- Sept. 9
 - Introduction
 - Syllabus
 - The twenty first century
 - Reading:
 - [Moral Relativism](#)
- Sept. 16 THE STRANGE DEATH OF LIBERAL WORLD ORDER?
 - Introduction: New world order 1989-2016
 - Readings:
 - [Fukuyama](#) The End of History
 - [YouTube, Fukuyama](#)

- Sept. 23
 - Readings:
 - Plato: [Book 8, Republic](#)
 - [Populism and Illiberal Democracy](#)
 - Perry Anderson, TBA
- Sept. 30 THE DIGITAL AGE
 - Introduction: The Digital Age
 - Reading:
 - CP, Bernard E. Harcourt, “*The Mirrored Glass Pavilion*,” p105-141
 - Reserve, “*The Eclipse of Humanism*” in Exposed
- Oct. 7
 - Reading:
 - CP Castell, “*Opening: Networking Minds Creating Meaning, Contesting Power*” from Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the internet age
- Oct. 14 READING WEEK
- Oct. 21 RELIGIOUS RESURGENCE
 - Introduction: God is back
 - Reading:
 - Selections from Malise Reuthven, A Short Introduction to Fundamentalism
- Oct. 28 Secular Malaise; Religious Violence
 - [Charles Taylor, The Malaise of Modernity](#)
 - Global Religious Violence: [ISIS](#), and others
- Nov. 4 SCEPTICISM TOWARDS MORAL AND SCIENTIFIC TRUTH
 - Introduction: A Sceptical Age
 - Reading:
 - Podcast
 - Richard Rorty, Pascal Engel What’s the Use of Truth
- Nov. 11
 - Film, *Zizek*
- Nov. 18
 - Reading:
 - CP, Hannah Arendt
- Nov. 25
 - Reading:
 - CP, Hannah Arendt
- Dec. 2 Wrap up

LATE PENALTY

Students are expected to hand in all assignments on the specified due dates. Late submissions will be subject to a late penalty of **5%** per day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examination

MCMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM (MSAF)

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

EMAIL CONTACT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Please Note:

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check **their McMaster email** and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. I will make announcements in class and by using the course email distribution list <d-as4IH3>.