UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES
TERM: WINTER 2012

Children, Families and the State **POLS7280 T01**
Political Theory and the Family **POLS4710 AO1**

COURSE #: POLS 4710/POLS 7280 **SECTION:** A01/T01 CRN: 24758/24759 **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

COURSE TITLE: Political Theory and the Family/Children, Families and the State

PROFESSOR: Dr. Steven Lecce

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FORMAT: Seminar

LOCATION OF CLASS: 115 St. John's College

TIME OF CLASS: Mon. 11:30-14:25

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

Format:
One weekly three hour seminar.

Description:
For most of the history of political thought in the West, the family has been either marginalized or idealized: some thinkers have ignored it as a purely private and therefore unworthy institution, and also as an impediment to the realization of collective purposes; others have conceived of it as a realm characterized by unconditional love, unity of interest, affection, and mutual dependence. While the first view makes justice inapplicable to the family, and the second one makes justice unnecessary, neither are ultimately defensible. Recent work in political theory has shown that the public and private spheres interpenetrate one another, raising important questions of familial (particular parental and spousal) justice. This course on contemporary political theory challenges the standing assumptions about the family in the Western philosophical tradition, by examining recent work on the normative aspects of the relations between children, families and the state.

Topics:
Topics and questions addressed include: what rights (if any) do children have? Should a democracy protect children's autonomy or parental religious freedoms? Should there be mandatory civic education? How should talent differentials between children affect distributive justice? Is multiculturalism bad for women and children? Are religious and associative freedoms compatible with gender equality? What is a just distribution of domestic labour? Should the goal of feminism be the demise of gender per se, or only the demise of involuntarily assumed gender roles? Does equality of opportunity require banning private schools? How should a democratic society regulate abortion and euthanasia?
Assignments: participation (10%) two critical outlines (20%); one essay (40%); one final exam (30%).

For POLS7280, the essay shall be 25-30 pages long; for POLS4710, it shall be 15-20 pages. In addition, the grading for *all* assignments in connection with POLS7280 shall reflect expectations appropriate to graduate-level research and writing.

Required texts:
Archard, David and MacLeod, Colin (eds) *The Moral and Political Status of Children* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Swift, Adam, *How Not to be a Hypocrite: School Choice for the Morally Perplexed Parent* (London: Routledge, 2003).

There will also be required readings placed on short-term reserve at the Elizabeth Dafoe library. An illustrative bibliography of such readings is appended here.
Bibliography:

Archard, David and MacLeod, Colin (eds) The Moral and Political Status of Children (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Brezeltow, T. and Greenspan S. The Irreducible Needs of Children: What Every Child Must have to Grow (New York: Perseus, 2000).

Burtt, S 'The proper scope of parental authority: Why we don't owe children an open future', in S. Macedo and I.M Young (eds) Child, Family and State (New York: New York University Press, 2003).

Brighouse, Harry 'Civic Education and liberal legitimacy', Ethics 108 (1998): 719-45.

Brighouse, Harry School Choice and Social Justice (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Clayton, Matthew and Stevens, David 'School Choice and the Burdens of Justice', Theory and Research in Education vol 2 (2) (2004): 111-126.

Clayton, Matthew Justice and Legitimacy in Upbringing (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Dworkin, Ronald Life's Dominion: An Argument about Abortion and Euthanasia (London: Harper Collins, 1993).

Feinberg, Joel 'The Child's right to an Open Future', in W. Aiken and H. Lafollette (eds) Whose Child: Children's Rights, Parental Authority and State Power (New Jersey: Rowman and Littlefield, 1980).

Fishkin, James Justice, Equality of Opportunity and the Family (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983).
Galston, W 'Parents, government and children: Authority over children in the liberal democratic state', in S. Macedo and I.M Young (eds) Child, Family and State (New York: New York University Press, 2003).
Gutmann, A 'Children, paternalism and education: a liberal argument', Philosophy & Public Affairs 9 (1980): 338-58
Gutmann, A 'Civic education and social diversity', Ethics 105 (1995): 557-79
Hobson, P 'Some reflections on parents' rights in the upbringing of their children', Journal of Philosophy of Education 18 (1984): 63-74
Lecce, Steven 'How Political is the Personal: Justice in Upbringing', Theory and Research in Education Vol 6 (1) (2008).
Macedo, S 'Liberal civic education and religious fundamentalism: the case of God v. John Rawls', Ethics 105 (1995).
McLaughlin, T.H 'Parental rights and the religious upbringing of children', Journal of Philosophy of Education 18 (1984): 75-83
Merry, M.S 'Should the State Fund Religious Schools?' Journal of Applied Philosophy. Vol. 24, no.3 (2007): 255-270.
Schoeman, F 'Rights of Children, rights of parents, and the moral basis of the family', Ethics 91 (1980): 6-19
Short, Geoffrey 'Faith-based schools: a threat to social cohesion?' Journal of Philosophy of Education vol.36, no.4 (2002): 560-572.
Swift, Adam How Not to be A Hypocrite: School Choice for the Morally Perplexed Parent. (London: Routledge, 2003).
Swift, Adam 'The Morality of School Choice', Theory and Research in Education vol 2 (1) (2004):7-21.
Weithman, P.J Religion and the Obligations of Citizenship (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).