

Phil 1010-2
Introduction to Philosophy: Social and Political Issues



(Mary Wollstonecraft)

Professor Sheridan
Office: MacKinnon 335
Office hours: Mondays, 2:30-3:30, or by appointment
Email: pmsherid@uoguelph.ca

This course will provide an historical examination of some of the most influential philosophical writings on issues of political authority, social inequality, revolution and democratic change, minority rights, socialism and communism. This kind of survey usually concentrates on the writings of such thinkers as Locke, Rousseau, Mill and Marx. However, this course will take a somewhat different approach to historical political debate. We will examine the works of the canonical male thinkers in dialogue with a selection of women thinkers who have contributed to social and political philosophy. To this end, we will be reading the works of early British political theorists Mary Astell and Mary Wollstonecraft, the radical feminist theorist Matilda Joslyn Gage, and African-American political theorists Frederick Douglass, Maria Stewart and Anna Julia Cooper. In this way, we will be able to explore social and political philosophy from a wider variety of social, economic and racial backgrounds than is usually offered in historical survey courses. As well, this course will give some much needed attention to the women who have made important but undervalued contributions to social and political philosophy.

Required Text:

Women and Men Political Theorists, ed. Kristin Waters (Massachusetts: Blackwell, 2000)

Evaluation:	10 1-page critical summaries*	20% (10 x 2%)
	Quizzes**	10% (2 x 5%)
	Mid-term***	35%
	Final Exam****	35%

This course will be using D2L. Please be sure to check the site throughout the term for course materials, powerpoints, and grades.

***Critical Summaries (20%):** These are short papers, which aim to identify the central claim or argument of a piece of text and respond in some critical way to that claim or argument. Each week, a specific reading from the text will be assigned for the weekly seminars, and your critical summary will address this assigned text. For the first week of seminars (the week of January 7th), you will not need to prepare a critical summary. Your tutorial leader will spend the first session instructing you in philosophical writing. For every subsequent weekly seminar, you will be required to hand in a critical summary of no more than 1 page (250 words), typed and double-spaced. They must be handed in at the end of each seminar.

Evaluation: Each critical summary is worth 2 marks (and 2% of your course grade). You will receive a 1 on your critical summary as long as it is clear that you read the assigned text and attempted some critical engagement with the text. You can get the 2nd mark on your assignment, if you participate in the seminar. Participation involves sharing your opinions, asking questions, etc. If you do participate in the seminar discussion put a checkmark on the top right-hand corner of your assignment before handing it in to your TA. Assignments with checkmarks on them will receive 2 marks.

****Note:** these marks are like participation marks. You cannot, therefore, get the marks if you miss a seminar. *No late critical summaries will be accepted.* If you miss the seminar, you lose the grades.

****Quizzes (10%):** Two quizzes, involving 10 true/false questions. They are meant to test your familiarity with basic terms and ideas that have been covered in the lectures and the seminars. These will take place in the last 20 minutes of class twice in the term:

Quiz #1: January 28th

Quiz #2: March 11th

*****Mid-term test (35%):** This will be an in-class test (50 minutes); essay format. Two essay questions will appear on the test and you will be asked to choose and answer only one. This test is cumulative of all material covered in class and in the seminars, up to the date of the mid-term.

Date: February 13th

-if you are not able to write the test for medical or compassionate reasons, please come talk to me as early as possible.

Final exam (35%): This exam will be 2 hours long (room TBA); essay format. You will be given three essay questions, in class, on the last day of classes and two of them will appear on the final exam. This exam will be cumulative of all material covered during the term, in class and in the seminars.

Date: Saturday April 13th, 8:30-10:30

-if you are unable to write the final exam, there are specific procedures set out in the Undergraduate Calendar.

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their **uoguelph.ca** e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester **Winter 2013** courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 8, 2013**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counseling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>