

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
PHIL 1010-01
Introduction to Philosophy: Social and Political Philosophy

Instructor: Jay Lampert
Office: MacKinnon 355
Office Hours: Physical: Tues 9-10
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Fall 2013
Extension: 53220

Tutorial leaders:

Section 1, Wed 1:30 Rachel Elliott rellio02@uoguelph.ca
Section 2, Wed 2:30 Rachel Elliott
Section 3, Wed 7:00 Orsolya Csaszar ocsaszar@uoguelph.ca
Section 4, Wed 8:00 Orsolya Csaszar
Section 5, Thur 1:30 Veronica Majewski majewski@uoguelph.ca
Section 6, Thur 2:30 Veronica Majewski
Section 7, Thur 3:30 Gerardo Villagran Becerra gvillagr@uoguelph.ca
Section 8, Thur 4:30 Gerardo Villagran Becerra

This introduction to social and political philosophy begins with the classical modern period and ends with current postmodern theory. The course will focus on the concept of freedom: what do we need to escape in order to be free?

"Man is born free, and yet we see him everywhere in chains". Rousseau begins his book with this sentence in order to ask how government, with the rules that are necessary for human society, can nevertheless maintain human freedom. We then read J. S. Mill's analysis of the nature and the role of liberty in democracy. We will read Marx and Engels to consider the role of class consciousness in achieving economic liberty. How much government, security, or even individuality do we have to give up in order to be free? Towards the end of the course, we consider existentialist and postmodern arguments that we have to give up meaning, identity, and even selfhood in order to be free. We will read feminist arguments that we have to give up gender definitions in order to be free. Finally, we read Foucault's analysis of the history of prisons, to think about where freedom might still be possible in a society structured around discipline.

Required Texts:

Rousseau, The Social Contract
Mill, On Liberty
Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto
Marks and Courtivron, New French Feminisms -- Coursepack
Foucault, Discipline and Punish

Grading scheme:

Explication paper on Rousseau or Mill, 4 pages, Oct 21:	20%
Term paper, 7 pages, Nov 25	35%
Final exam	25%
Participation in tutorial group discussions	10%
Weekly position statement submission to tutorial group*	10%

* There will be discussions at each tutorial session. The topics are included in this outline. Bring two written sentences indicating what position you expect to start with in the discussion. Of course, you are free to alter your views once the discussion begins. If you submit these position statements, you receive 1% per tutorial session (to a limit of 10% for the semester.) The other 10% for participation in the tutorials will be determined by the tutorial leader, and will depend on whether you have done the readings, and whether you participate in class discussions. Tutorial sessions will have 20-25 students in each section, so each student should come prepared to participate in discussing the topics in the course. The best way to prepare for participation in discussion is simply to have thought about what you think about the topics in the course. In total, 20% of the course grade is given for work in the tutorial sessions. If you read the texts and think about them, these should be easy marks to get. If you do not attend the tutorial sessions, you will not get these marks, and it will be very difficult to get a good grade for the course.

In general, the Monday hours with the professor will be in lecture format (though I encourage questions and discussion as much as is possible for a large class). Tutorial sessions with the tutorial leaders will involve discussion of the philosophical issues, developing philosophical skills, answering student questions, clarifying and analyzing the meaning of the text, preparing for assignments, and whatever else the tutorial leader and the students find most valuable. If you have specific questions about the meaning of the texts, bring them to the tutorial sessions. Read the texts before attending the tutorial sessions.

Laptops are permissible in class only for work related to this course: taking notes, or looking up names or terms used in the lectures, if necessary. Use of laptops for email, web surfing unrelated to the course, and other uses, is not permitted. Philosophical concepts demand close attention, which multi-tasking undermines.

Readings:

- Sept 9 Lecture: Introduction to classical political philosophy
Rousseau: Social contract, Bk 1, 1-6
- Sept 16 The sovereign and the general will, Law and People Bk 1, 7-9 and Bk 2, 1-10
Government, Bk 3 1-7
- Sept 23 Good government and the abuse of government, Bk 3, 8-18
Elections and dictatorships, Religion and politics, Bk 4, 1-3 and 6-8
- Sept 30 Mill: The principle of liberty, chapters. 1 and 2
Freedom of (false) thought and speech,
Freedom of (true) thought and speech.
- Oct 7 Freedom of individual action: genius and lunacy; (Eurocentrism), ch. 3
Limits to individual freedom: public vs. private problems, e.g. religion and drugs,
ch. 4
- Oct 21 Economic freedom, Freedom of education (against the subjugation of women),
ch. 5
Marx: Freedom and class struggle, ch. 1
- Oct 28 Capitalism and alienation, ch. 1 (cont.)
Communism and the abolition of property: freedom from bourgeois "freedom",
Freedom and revolution, ch. 2 and 3
Freedom and necessity beyond individuality and the state
- Nov 4 New French Feminisms, De Beauvoir, 41-56
NFF, Common Themes, 212-230
NFF, Power and Pornography, 64-86
- Nov 11 NFF, Irigaray, Sexuality and Politics, 99-110
NFF, Feminism, Marxism, Revolution, Witchcraft, 121-36, 199-203
NFF, Cixous, Writing, 245-264
- Nov 18 Foucault: "Humane" punishment, History of the body, 3-31
Punishment: Restoring the social contract or shaping an obedient subject?
114-131
- Nov 25 Docile bodies and micropolitics 135-56
Panopticon, 195-209
Do prisons eliminate crime or produce delinquency?, 264-80

Thursday Nov 28 Is there any way to get free of panopticism? No readings
Conclusion to the course
Preparation for final exam

Wednesday Dec 4, 2:30-4:30: Final exam, in the regular classroom

Tutorial discussion questions:

For your tutorial session after:

Sept 9 Do you think you have implicitly signed a social contract in the way Rousseau thinks?

Sept 16 Is democracy possible in a geographically large nation?

Sept 23 Does religious belief enhance democracy or hinder it? (It may depend on what kind of religion it is.)

Sept 30 Should racist statements be censored (given that they are obviously false)?

Oct 7 Should narcotics be illegal?

Oct 21 Is Marx right to say that all history has been “the history of class struggle”?

Oct 28 Might it be possible for a communist society to maintain incentives for work and creativity even after it has abolished private property? How?

Nov 4 Is pornography inherently violent?

Nov 11 Do women in general speak or write differently than men?

Nov 18 Is confinement more or less cruel than physical punishment?

Nov 25 Is resistance possible in a society run like a panopticon?

And: Preparation for the final exam

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 Fall 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday October 31**. 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 that involve, 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 Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>

Learning resources for first-year students at the Library

Did you know that the Library and Learning Commons offer free services to help you succeed in your first year at the University of Guelph?

You can:

- meet with a peer helper to talk about study strategies or your writing assignments
- attend Supported Learning Groups
- get assistance finding journal articles and books
- register for academic workshops
- lots more!

Visit the Library website for more information: www.lib.uoguelph.ca