

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
PHIL 1010 “Social and Political Issues”

**Instructor:** Niels Feuerhahn / MacKinnon 368 / email: nfeuerha@uoguelph.ca

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30am - 1:00pm

**Description of Course:**

Aristotle famously argued that the human being is *phusei politikon zoon*, by nature a political animal. In this course we will study some of the most influential writers in the history of political philosophy. Starting with Aristotle's Politics we will study the origin and function of the state, the question what the best form of governance is, and what role justice ought to play in political societies. After the winter break we will contrast Aristotle's naturalistic political theory with the work of two of the most famous social contract theorists: Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. One of the central question that will interest us here is the question concerning the origin of *legitimate* political power. Another philosopher of interest to us will be Karl Marx. We will study sections from his *Grundrisse*, a precursor to his most famous work *Capital*. In the weekly seminars students will be given the opportunity to closely read sections of John Stuart Mill's influential On Liberty, as well as other texts. The seminars are intended to complement the lectures and to allow students to develop and practice various elements of philosophical reasoning and writing.

**Method of Evaluation:**

1 writing assignment (1500 words)	=	25% (due during your seminars in Week 3)
1 writing assignment (2000 words)	=	35% (due during your seminars in Week 6)
1 final exam	=	40% (April 8, 2014)

The deadline for the submission of writing assignment is gauged generously. Therefore, late submissions without a valid excuse will be penalized with a deduction of 5% per overdue day.

**Required texts:**

Readings will be announced in class and will be made available via the Courselink page of the course. For the weekly seminars/tutorials the purchase of John Stuart Mill's On Liberty is recommended.

**Course requirements**

**First writing assignment:**

The first writing assignment will involve explicating a key idea from the “Introduction” of J.S. Mill's On Liberty. The topic of this paper and detailed instructions will be handed out during your seminars in Week 2.

**Second writing assignment:**

The second writing assignment is a short argumentative essay in which you are supposed to formulate, explain, and defend a thesis. The topic of this paper and detailed instructions will be posted on the Courselink page of the course in the week after Winter Break. The second writing assignment is due during the seminars of Week 6.

**Final exam:**

The final exam will be cumulative and will be based on the weekly lectures. Details will be announced later in the semester.

**Schedule of lectures****Week 1**

Monday, February 3 Introduction  
Wednesday, February 5 Aristotle's Politics

**Week 2**

Monday, February 10 Aristotle's Politics  
Wednesday, February 12 Aristotle's Politics

Monday, February 17 Winter Break (no class)  
Wednesday, February 19 Winter Break (no class)

**Week 3**

Monday, Feb 24 Thomas Hobbes's Leviathan  
Wednesday, Feb 26 Thomas Hobbes's Leviathan

**Week 4**

Monday, March 3 Jean-Jacques Rousseau's On the Social Contract  
Wednesday, March 5 Jean-Jacques Rousseau's On the Social Contract

**Week 5**

Monday, March 10 Jean-Jacques Rousseau's On the Social Contract  
Wednesday, March 12 John Locke's Second Treatise of Government

**Week 6**

Monday, March 17 John Locke's Second Treatise of Government  
Wednesday, March 19 Karl Marx's Grundrisse

**Week 7**

Monday, March 24 Karl Marx's Grundrisse  
Wednesday, March 26 Karl Marx's Grundrisse

**Week 8**

Monday, April 3 Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punish  
Wednesday, April 5 Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punish

### Schedule of seminars

- Week 1: “Introduction” of J.S. Mill's On Liberty
- Week 2: “Introduction” of J.S. Mill's On Liberty
- Week 3: Joel Feinberg's “The Nature and Value of Rights” pp.243-245 ; 249-255\*
- Week 4: Chapter 4 of J.S. Mill's On Liberty
- Week 5: Chapter 4 of J.S. Mill's On Liberty
- Week 6: Selection from Gary Francione's Animals as Persons\*
- Week 7: Selection from Mikhail Bakunin's “Three Lectures to Swiss Members” and “All-Round Education”\*
- Week 8: t.b.a.

\* Readings will be made available via Courselink

### E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> email account regularly: email 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 '14** courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 7 2014**. 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.

### 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/>