

Department of Philosophy
University of Guelph
Winter 2015

PHIL*1010-02 Syllabus

Lecturer: Dr. Victoria I. Burke
Lecture Time: TUE 19:00-20:50
Lecture Location: ROZH 102
Office Location: 339 MacKinnon (office wing)
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-12:45 PM + by appointment
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Introductory Philosophy: Social and Political Issues

PHIL1010-02 will be an elementary introduction to modern political philosophy, from the early modern figure Thomas Hobbes to the contemporary Canadian political philosopher Will Kymlicka. Early in the modern era, Hobbes conceived of state power as a necessary restraint on the conflict that would arise in a state of nature: strong centralized state power would counteract these natural tendencies. As the modern era grew, it came to be determined, first with the British Enlightenment and then the French, that rulers should be accountable to the people they rule: the government should be the medium through which the people rule themselves. Locke established many of the principles that we now consider essential to democracy: for example, that private ownership would be a cornerstone of a modern political order and that the heads of state could be removed by the people who gave them their power. Rousseau argued that at the core of any nation-state was ‘the general will,’ a sense of solidarity to which every individual would voluntarily subordinate his or her own will as a precondition for membership in the political community. Karl Marx built upon G.W.F. Hegel to introduce economics into political theory, showing that the capitalist economic sphere degraded the quality of life of the propertyless worker. They became less self-sufficient and more dependent upon the capitalist and less and less valuable as mechanization developed. In the late twentieth

century, political theories revolved around the best way to balance the two values of the Enlightenment, liberty and equality. John Rawls' liberal theory of distributive justice was published in the 1971 *A Theory of Justice* and Robert Nozick's libertarian entitlement theory of justice was published in *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (1974). PHIL1010-02 will relate an array of modern political philosophers to specific landmark Canadian legal cases and issues. We will also cover material from recent Canadian Hegelian political philosopher, Charles Taylor, and Canadian liberal theorist, Will Kymlicka.

Required Texts:

Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy, Edited by Omid Payrow-Shabani and Monique Deveaux (Oxford UP ISBN 978-0-19- 543131-5). All course readings are from this text except: Taylor, Charles, "Atomization", which will be posted on the CourseLink site in PDF form

Obtaining Course Texts:

The textbook is available at the university bookstore. Two copies of the course textbook have been placed on reserve at the physical reserve desk at McLaughlin library.

Course Requirements: Students will be assessed on the basis of two Analysis papers (5-6 pages each), 3 Quizzes, Tutorial Participation, and a Comprehensive Final Examination.

Distribution:

3 Quizzes 5% each: 15%

1st Analysis (5-6 pages): 20%

2nd Analysis (5-6 pages): 20%

Tutorial Participation: 15%

Comprehensive Final Examination: 30%

Guidelines for submitting written work: The essays must be submitted on white 8.5 x 11 paper, typed and double-spaced. Students must keep a copy of their work for their own files in case the paper should become lost. If the paper becomes lost (by the student, the department secretary, the T.A. or the Instructor), it is the student's responsibility to be able to replace it.

Course Objectives: The objectives of PHIL*1010-02 are: 1.) to acquaint students with the canonical tradition of modern political philosophy (from Hobbes to Kymlicka), and to gain insight into the way in which such ideas have a relevance to Canadian society and political issues; 2.) to encourage students to think critically about such ideas and issues; 3.) to provide students with the opportunity to formulate and write about their own original interpretations of concepts in the area of political philosophy; and 4.) to gain experience in employing their reading comprehension and capacity for self-expression in discussions with other class members on fundamental topics in political philosophy.

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes, worth 5% of your grade each (total 15%). The quizzes are 20-minute vocabulary tests that could cover any material that has been covered in the class thus far. They begin at the start time of lecture on the designated date, and end 20 minutes later. They will ask you to define a word or phrase. These quizzes cannot be made up at a later date. The only way to receive credit for them (potential 5% of course grade for each quiz) is to attend class on the scheduled class date of the quiz and write the 20-minute quiz. The dates of the scheduled quizzes are on the syllabus, and you have plenty of warning. If you miss class on that day, you will lose 5% of the possible 100% of course points. This may not seem like a lot at the beginning of term, but you will want those points later in the term. It is highly advisable to plan in advance to be in class that day. There are no advanced study guides for the quizzes, and their contents will be a complete surprise. Anything that has been covered thus far in the term is fair game, although, if it has previously appeared on a quiz, it will not appear on a quiz again.

A Note on the Powerpoint Presentations: The powerpoint presentations are not meant to be exhaustive of the content of the lectures. They provide "at a glance" sketches of the content to be covered. They are posted in advance of the lectures with the intention that students can bring the printouts of these slides to lecture, and/or tutorial and take notes by annotating them. It is to be recognized that the lectures and tutorials will provide a great deal more content than is on the slides. They are a basis only, and are meant to

assist students who for whatever reason cannot attend that week's class/tutorials. Students who rely only on these powerpoints will be disadvantaged when their work is compared to students who have attended. Lectures and tutorials also provide a forum for spontaneous interaction among students, through questions, comments, and observations of all participants that is pedagogically valuable, but which cannot be replicated on the PPT. The PPTs provide an avenue for keeping track of what is going on in class "at a glance", but which is just a small portion of what is actually going on in the class. Students' live exposure to each other's comments is an important, irreplaceable part of the educational process.

Participation Marks: Participation points are awarded for students who actively make themselves known in tutorials and lectures through verbal contributions and questions. Participation marks will be awarded on the basis of the level of student engagement with the tutorial and lecture sessions. Generally, students who make regular class contributions have a good chance of getting full marks. Students who display a capacity to engage with others (students, lectures) dialogically (and who display a capacity to listen) will generally be given greater credit than students whose social orientation is one-sided or aggressive. Other factors include: level of insight into readings, level of currency with present states of affairs, reading comprehension, consideration of others and productive engagement. If you are concerned about your mark, you can ask your tutorial leader at 2/3 point in the term what your expected participation grade will be, and he or she will give you an estimate at that point. The university does not permit us to give participation points for attendance alone.

Deadlines: Deadlines for the two essays are: the week of January 27, 2015, and the week of March 10, 2015, in tutorials. Late assignments beyond the three late days allotted will incur a penalty of 5% per day for every day the assignment is late. Students should reserve their late days for an emergency. Assignments will not be accepted via email or fax, and university regulations regarding late work during the final exam period will be strictly observed.

Ecologically friendly writing assignments and Citation Style: In the interest of maintaining an ecologically sound course, cover sheets are not required on the assignments. Put your name and student number at the top of the first page and start the essay one quarter of the way down the page. Use the MLA, APA, or *Chicago Manual of Style* as a style guide for citations. It is not important which style sheet you use: what is important is that you are consistent and correct. Do not include a separate bibliography page, use footnotes at the bottom of each page. I will post a style guide for your convenience on the courselink site. Do not send emails to the instructor inquiring about citation style. Citation of Lectures and Powerpoints (Burke March 6, 2014). Common knowledge does not need to be cited.

Late Days: Students are allotted three free late days for the term that they may use at any time with or without the tutorial leader's permission. Late penalties will accrue at 5% per day late after the three free days have all been used up. Your tutorial leader will keep a record of late days used, and will have authority to judge whether particular instances of late work warrants a penalty after the free late days have been used. Do not attempt to discuss circumstances of late work with the Lecturer.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will receive no comments from the TA, and are to be submitted to the Courselink site dropbox. The courselinksite dropbox is for late assignments only. The TA will read the late assignment online and assign it a grade with no further explanation. Do not attempt to give assignments to the lecturer. Assignments are not to be submitted to front office staff at the philosophy department. The courselink site will give the paper a date and time stamp.

Dropbox: The dropbox is intended for *late* assignments only. Assignments are due in *hardcopy* form in tutorials the week of the deadline. This is to facilitate grading by the TAs, who will need to annotate comments and marks directly on the paper, and calculate the grade from there. If you have a late assignment, you can upload it to the dropbox for the purpose of a time-stamp and for marking, but you will potentially receive a late penalty, and no comments..

Email: Philosophical questions about content will not be answered on email by either the lecturer or the TA.. Students must avail themselves of lecture, tutorials, or office hours in order to have their questions about content answered. TAs are not paid for email time with students, and they are not required to answer

student questions on email. If you wish to disturb the TAs while they are off TA duty, please note that all graduate student email addresses are available on the department website under “People”. Only short administrative questions will be answered on email by the lecturer. You can expect a response in 48 hours. If you have a question, the first thing to do is check the course website or syllabus. 40% of the emailed questions I receive concern requests for information that is freely available on the course website. If you email a question, the answer to which is on the course website, you will not receive a response due to the volume of email we receive. If the student does genuinely need to email the lecturer, she or he should include the course code in the subject line (since Lecturers teach multiple courses).

Office Hours: My office hours are 12:00-12:45 PM MWF + by appointment (Office Location: Mack 339 (office wing)). These are free and open hours when you can simply drop in to discuss material, and to ask questions of any sort. Students do not need to advise me in advance that they are coming to visit during office hours. The poster on the office door does not designate my office hours. It designates the hours I am occupying the office. Do not knock on the office door at any time other than my designated office hours, unless you have an appointment.

Desire2Learn Site: This class will have a Desire2Learn website, where all powerpoint presentations, handouts, and assignments will be posted. Students may access the site through Courselink, and are required to check the site regularly for announcements. Student grades for the assignments will also be posted on the courselink site.

Readings and Lectures: Students should read the assigned material prior to class, and should bring the texts to class as class may involve careful and close examination of the readings.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1: Course Introduction; Hobbbes

January 6:

Reading: “Leviathan,” pp. 64-82

*Instructions for Hobbes/Locke/Rousseau “Social Contract” Essay posted to the Courselink site

*No tutorials week January 5

WEEK 2: Locke

January 13:

Reading: Locke, “Two Treatises of Civil Government,” pp. 89-106; Quebec Religious Culture Course, pp. 126-129

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Locke & Quebec’s Ethics and Religious Culture Course

WEEK 3: Rousseau

January 20:

Reading: Rousseau, “The Social Contract” (Books 1 & 2 only), pp. 132-145; Reference re: Secession of Quebec, pp. 160-166

*Quiz #1 (Vocabulary Test)

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Does Quebec Have a Right to Secede?

WEEK 4: Kant & Mill

January 27:

Reading: Kant, "On the Saying: 'This May Be True in Theory But It Does Not Apply in Practice'," pp. 169-183; Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, pp. 185-190; Mill, "On Liberty," pp. 192-216

*Social Contract Essay due in Tutorials

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

WEEK 5: Hegel & Marx:

February 3: Hegel and "Positive Liberty"

Reading: Taylor, "Atomization," pp. 729-743 (photocopy); Marx, "The Communist Manifesto," pp. 236-245

*Instructions for Modern Freedom Essay posted to the Courselink site

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Positive versus Negative Liberty

WEEK 6: Marx

February 10:

Reading: Marx, cont'd; The Winnipeg General Strike, pp. 245-248.

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: The Winnipeg General Strike

Reading Week February 16-21 (no classes)

WEEK 7: Rawls

February 24:

Reading: Rawls, "A Theory of Justice," pp. 251-277; "C-6 Canada Health Act," pp. 278-282

*Quiz #2 (Vocabulary Test)

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Universal Healthcare in Canada

WEEK 8: Nozick

March 3:

Reading: Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia," pp. 285-301; Liberty and its Limits: *R vs Oakes*, pp. 301-308

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Liberty and its Limits: *R vs Oakes*

WEEK 9: Habermas

March 10:

Reading: Habermas, "Three Normative Models of Democracy," pp. 377-382; Kloegman, "A Democratic Defense of the Court Challenges Program," pp. 385-390

*Modern Freedom Essay Due in Tutorials

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: The Court Challenges Program

WEEK 10: Foucault

March 17:

Reading: Foucault, "Two Lectures On Power," pp. 393-407

Optional Reading: "From *Norberg vs Wynrib*," pp. 408-419

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Power & *Norberg vs. Wynrib*

WEEK 11: Okin & Nussbaum

March 24:

Reading: "Gender, Justice, and the Family," pp. 311-318; From *R vs Levallee*," pp. 320-328

Required Reading: *Globe and Mail* interview with University of Guelph, Philosophy Professor, Karyn Freedman: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/relationships/memoir-confronts-the-trauma-of-rape/article18191597/#dashboard/follows/>

Required Viewing: Trailer for recent documentary on domestic violence:

<http://boxoffice.hotdocs.ca/websales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=22829~446634ba-e848-4237-9b3c-72aceddb5263&epguid=b314c44a-eed5-4434-9c2c-cc86c0bf61ee&>

Optional Reading: Freedman, Karyn. *One Hour in Paris: A True Story of Rape and Recovery* [On physical reserve at the McLaughlin Library]:

Required Reading: Nussbaum, "Women and Cultural Universals," pp. 355-370

*Quiz #3 (Vocabulary Test)

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Gender and Violence; Gender and Disadvantage

WEEK 12: Mills & Kymlicka

March 31:

Reading: Mills, "Racial Liberalism," pp. 331-340; Kymlicka, "Multicultural Citizenship," pp. 442-460

Readings in Aboriginal Sovereignty Issues From the News

*Tutorial Discussion Topic: Aboriginal Sovereignty

In the Public Domain on the WWW:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/first-nations-girl-chooses-traditional-medicine-over-chemo-1.2644637>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/05/14/girls-decision-to-drop-chemotherapy-in-favour-of-aboriginal-medicine-prompts-childrens-aid-intervention/>

Final Examination scheduled during the registrar's scheduled exam period: the final examination for PHIL*1010-02 is scheduled for Tuesday April 14 at 11:30AM - 01:30PM (2015/04/14) (Room TBA)

UNDERGRADUATE CALENDAR: "Students are advised that the Final Examination schedules are available for Fall Semester by mid-August, for Winter Semester by mid-December, and for Summer

Semester by mid-April. Students are required to consult the final examination timetable in order to avoid conflicts in examination times when adding courses. Written approval must be obtained from the dean or director and the instructor-in-charge of the course to register in courses that have conflicting examination times.”

The Final Exam for PHIL*1010-02 will not be re-scheduled or given at an alternative time; students may not ask the professor or the TA to invigilate the exam for them at an alternative time and date

Item on Physical Reserve at the McLaughlin Library:

Freedman, Karyn. *One Hour in Paris: A True Story of Rape and Recovery* HV6558 F745 2014

Mandatory Week 5 Reading to be Posted on the CourseLink Site:

Taylor, Charles. “Atomism.” *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*. Ed. Steven M. Cahn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 726-743.

Email 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 email contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar's [information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration](#).

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday March 6, 2015. See the Undergraduate Calendar's [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses](#).

Copies of out-of-class assignments

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

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact

Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or refer to the [SAS website](#).

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is [detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars>

Learning resources for first-year students at the Library

The Library and Learning Commons offer free services to help you succeed at the University of Guelph. At the Library, you can:

- > get feedback on your writing
- > get assistance finding journal articles and books
- > fine-tune your time management skills
- > develop new study strategies
- > attend Supported Learning Groups (SLGs)
- > learn about citation and reference styles
- > and more

Visit the **Library website** to learn more about our workshops, online guides, individual appointments, and other services: www.lib.uoguelph.ca