

PHIL 1010-02 Introductory Philosophy: Social and Political Issues

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 3:00, or by appointment

Final Exam: Tuesday April 8th, 8:30 – 10:30, room TBA

Winter Term 2014

M/W 3:30-4:20

MacLachlan (MCLN) 102

Tutorial Leaders

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Brief Course Description

This course is an introduction to philosophy through the study of social and political issues. Our aim will be to become familiar with the central theories in contemporary political philosophy, such as liberalism, communitarianism, feminism and multiculturalism. We will examine these theories in an effort to help us better understand and respond to a variety of social problems facing us today; in particular, we will try to find an answer to the question “what does it mean for governments to show ‘equal concern and respect’ to their citizens?” Other issues to be addressed include the balance between rights and freedoms, the relationship between citizenship and group diversity, and the ‘capabilities approach’.

Text

Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*, 2nd Edition, (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Selected Readings (ARES): made available to you on-line through the library’s Ares E-Course Reserve System: <https://ares.lib.uoguelph.ca/ares/>

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.

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2013 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>

When You Can't Meet A Course Requirement (NB: see below for specific details)

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>

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>

Course Format

Lectures: We will meet as a class twice a week during the winter term in **MacLachlan (MCLN) 102**. Class time will be divided between lectures and class discussion. In order to be able to contribute to classroom discussion it is imperative that you do the week's reading *prior* to coming to class.

Tutorials: Additionally, you will meet once a week in small groups of about 20 students for a tutorial session, which will be led by a graduate student from the Philosophy Department (the method of evaluation for these sessions is detailed below).

Courselink: The lecture notes will not be posted on courselink. In order to get the lecture notes you need to come to class. However, I will be happy to set up a discussion forum on courselink if there is student demand for one.

Evaluation

1. **Tutorial papers (10 x 2 = 20%).** At your first tutorial session, your tutorial leader will teach you how to write a short philosophy paper, and at each subsequent session (except for one, which is indicated on your syllabus) you will hand in one such paper. There is an assigned reading for each of these tutorial sessions, and your tutorial leader will assign you a topic for your paper from that reading. A tutorial paper should be 1-page (250 words) long, typewritten and double-spaced.

How tutorial papers are graded: You will receive 1 mark for doing a tutorial paper, which must be handed in at the *end* of the tutorial session in which it is due. There will be no letter or number grade given to your papers (which will be kept by your TA); it is a pass/fail assignment, and you will 'pass' so long as it is clear that you have done the reading in question and completed the assignment you were given. You can earn a 2nd mark on your paper for participating in the tutorial sessions. If you participate (i.e. talk, share your views, etc.), then you should put a checkmark on your paper before handing it in. All papers handed in at the end of the tutorial class that have a checkmark on them will receive 2 marks. You will be encouraged to review your tutorial papers with your TA during her office hour.

- These marks are like participation marks, and as such there will be no opportunity to make them up – *if you miss your tutorial, you lose the marks*. In other words: no late papers will be accepted.
2. **Graded tutorial paper (10%).** You will write one long-version of your tutorial paper, which will be a 3-page paper on that week's readings. You will be given a topic for your paper at least 2 weeks in advance. Unlike your tutorial papers this is a graded assignment and you will receive written feedback on it.

3. **Mid-term test (30%).** This will be an in-class test and will be on all the material covered up to the date of the test, including material covered in tutorial sessions. The test may include some definitions, true/false questions, short answer and long answer questions.
 - **Students who are unable to write the mid-term due to medical reasons must submit a medical certificate.** These students will be given an opportunity to do a rewrite.

4. **Final exam (40%).** This will take place during the Final Exam Period as scheduled by the College of Arts (Tuesday April 8th, 8:30 – 10:30, room TBA). The exam, which is cumulative, may include some definitions, true/false questions, short answer and long answer questions.
 - **Students who are unable to write the final exam due to medical or religious reasons must follow the guidelines set out in Undergraduate calendar.**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
January 6 January 8 Tutorial	Class Mechanics; Introduction Logic Introduction Philosophy paper-writing tutorial	Kymlicka, Ch. 1 No assigned reading * no tutorial paper due
January 13 January 15 Tutorial	Utilitarianism Utilitarianism Utilitarianism	Kymlicka, Ch. 2, p. 10 – 20 Kymlicka, Ch. 2, p. 20 – 37 & 45 – 48 Kymlicka, Ch. 2, p. 37 – 45
January 20 January 22 Tutorial	Liberal Equality Liberal Equality Liberal Equality	Kymlicka, Ch. 3, p. 53 – 60 Kymlicka, Ch. 3, p. 60 – 70 & 88 – 96 Kymlicka, Ch. 3, p. 70 – 75
January 27 January 29 Tutorial	Libertarianism Libertarianism Libertarianism	Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 100 – 110 Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 110 – 121 & 154 – 159 Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 121 – 127
February 3 February 5 Tutorial	Marxism Marxism Marxism	Kymlicka, Ch. 5, p. 166 – 176 Kymlicka, Ch. 5, p. 177 – 195 Kymlicka, Ch. 5, p. 195 – 201
February 10 February 12 Tutorial	Mid-Term Test Communitarianism Communitarianism * paper topic assigned	Kymlicka, Ch. 6, p. 208 – 220 Kymlicka, Ch. 6, p. 221 – 228
February 17-21	Reading Week – No Classes	
February 24 February 25 Tutorial	Citizenship Theory Citizenship Theory Citizenship Theory	Kymlicka, Ch. 7, p. 284 – 299 Kymlicka, Ch. 7, p. 299 – 312 Kymlicka, Ch. 7, p. 312 – 319
March 3 March 5 Tutorial	Multiculturalism Multiculturalism Multiculturalism * paper due	Kymlicka, Ch. 8, p. 327 – 343 Kymlicka, Ch. 8, p. 343 – 349 & 362 – 370 Kymlicka, Ch. 8, p. 349 – 362
March 10 March 12 Tutorial	Feminism Ethics of Care Ethics of Care	Kymlicka, Ch. 9, p. 377 – 386 Kymlicka, Ch. 9, p. 394 – 403 Kymlicka, Ch. 9, p. 404 – 420
March 17 March 19 Tutorial	Capabilities approach Capabilities approach Capabilities approach	Nussbaum (audio lecture) Nussbaum capabilities, p. 220 – 236 (ARES) Nussbaum capabilities, p. 237 – 242 (ARES)
March 24 March 26 Tutorial	Same Sex Marriage S. S. Marriage & Homosexuality S. S. Marriage & Homosexuality	Wedgewood (ARES) Wedgewood & Corvino (ARES) Somerville & Mercier (ARES)
March 31 April 2 Tutorial	Veiled Threats Final Exam Review Beyond the Veil: A Response	Nussbaum (ARES) No assigned reading Nussbaum (ARES)