

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

PHIL 1010-1, Winter 2011

Introduction to Philosophy: Issues in Social and Political Philosophy

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:00-12:00

Course Description:

Taking philosophy in a general way to be the investigation of the most fundamental questions in various fields, this course aims to examine questions in relation to social and political areas of human interaction such as what is justice? What is a just state? What is the political? How should we understand the relation between political authority and individual liberty? What is democracy? Is the law the instrument of justice, or the tool of powerful interests? What is civil society? The answer to these questions will be sought, first, by a study of canonical texts of Western political philosophy which will include both ancient and contemporary contributions, and secondly, by a discussion of current controversies as found in the court cases and news. By the end of the course, students not only will have a sense of main topics and issues in social and political philosophy but will also be able to examine and analyze such arguments as found in their everyday life.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course the students should be able to

- Have a good grasp of the history and the range of social and political theories.
- Be able to identify, critically examine and assess social and political issues.
- Be able to develop and formalize their own thoughts on social and political issues.

Required Text:

John Arthur & William H. Shaw, *Social and Political Issues*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall
Students are responsible both for the *textbook material* and the *lecture material*.

Course Evaluation:

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Two tests, each worth | 25% |
| 2) Critical Summary | 15% |
| 3) A final exam worth | 35% (8:30-10:30, 11 April) |

1) Prior to each test and the final exam a comprehensive list of questions drawn from material discussed in class will be given to the students so that they can focus their preparation on these questions. The questions for both tests and the final exam will be taken from this list.

2) The critical summary assignment is a one-page double-spaced text, where the students aim to capture and relay the gist of the reading of the week (either the Mon. reading or the Wed. reading). The critical summary should end with one question that the student raises about the reading. The summaries will be collected **every Mon.** in class and will be handed back to the

students in their next tutorial session. The summaries will be marked by the TAs assigned to each tutorial group. Each critical summary that earns a “Pass” gets 1.5 marks. You are expected to hand in ten to earn the total of 15% mark for this assignment. For CS to count you need to be (and remain) in class.

Other Rules

-If you can't make the stated office hour, please let me know of your availability and I will try to meet with you at a time of your choosing.

-My email is to be used only in the case of emergency or to set up an appointment (it is not to be used to ask what is the reading for next class, when is the midterm, when is an assignment due, etc. **Such emails will go unanswered**).

-Late assignments or make up exams will be allowed only after an official certification either from a doctor or your program counselor is provided; otherwise a mark of zero will be entered for the assignment. (See the Addendum to Course Outline at the end of syllabus)

-Laptops are not allowed in class.

-Cell Phones should be turned off (no texting in class).

-No recording (audio or visual) without the expressed consent of the instructor.

Class Schedule:

Week I:

Mon. Jan. 10: Introduction to the course

Wed. Jan. 12: Plato's *Republic*, p. 443

Week II:

Mon. Jan. 17: Aristotle's *Politics*, p. 463

Wed. Jan. 19: Hobbes' *Leviathan*, p. 474

Week III:

Mon. Jan. 24: Hobbes Cont.

Wed. Jan. 26: Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*, p. 493

Week IV:

Mon. Jan. 31: Locke's *A letter Concerning Toleration*, 205; & *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 261

Wed. Feb. 2: Marx and Engels's *Communist Manifesto*, p. 506

Week V:

Mon. Feb. 7: **FIRST TEST**

Wed. Feb. 9: John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism, p. 526

Week VI:

Mon. Feb. 14: Mill: *Consideration on Representative Government*, p. 89

Wed. Feb. 16: Mill: *On Liberty*, p. 279

Week VII: **Winter Break Feb. 21-25**

Week VIII:

Mon. Feb. 28: Isaiah Berlin: Two Concepts of Freedom, p. 298; and Paris Adult Theater v. Slaton: Obscenity, p. 356

Wed. Mar. 2: Rawls' *Theory of Justice*, p. 542

Week IX:

Mon. Mar. 7: Sandal: Morality and the Liberal ideal, p. 564

Wed. Mar. 9: **SECOND TEST**

Week X:

Mon. Mar. 14: Robin West: Political theory and Gender, p. 569

Wed. Mar. 16: Kymlicka: Sexual Equality and discrimination, p. 415

Week XI:

Mon. Mar. 21: Singer: Equality and its implications, p. 365

Wed. Mar. 23: Ronald Dworkin: Why Should Liberals care about Equality?, p. 383

Week XII:

Mon. Mar. 28: The Problem of Facial Discrimination, p. 420; and Michael M. v. Sonoma County Superior Court, p.427

Wed. Mar. 30: Singer: Democracy, Fairness and Compromise, p. 113

Week XIII:

Mon. Apr. 4: Dworkin: Constitutional cases, p. 136

Wed. Apr. 6: The Right to Abortion: Roe v. Wade, p. 269-273

7 Standard Statements for dissemination to students in the BA Program, Winter 2011.

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 Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday March 11th**. 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/>