



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL*1010-01, INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
WINTER 2018, Mon., Wed., 1:30-2:20

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

(Please read the outline carefully and hold on to it for future reference)

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Office hours: Tue. 1:30-2:30

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 such questions in relation to social and political areas of human interaction and important questions 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 in Canada. 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 better reading and writing skill.
- Be able to better communicate about social and political issues.
- 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:

Omid Payrow Shabani & Monique Deveaux, *Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 2014

Students are responsible both for the *textbook material* and the *lecture material*.

Course Evaluation:

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|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Four Tests | 60% (each is worth 15%) |
| 2. Participation | 5% |
| 3. Final Paper | 35% |
| 4. Bonus mark | 5% |

- 1) Four tests that are made of 5 to 7 short-answer questions.
- 2) Participation mark of 10% which will be assigned by the TAs, who will be leading your seminar sessions, based on your participation in the seminars.
- 3) A final take-home exam in the form of an essay question worth 35% of your final grade, and due on **April, 9th to Dropbox**. (an essay topic, detail description of the essay and its evaluation scheme will be posted on the Courselink in early February)
- 4) Bonus Assignment: Students who get a letter published (in the section “Letter to the editor”) in any **daily city** newspaper before the last day of classes. Upon the publication of your letter, you will send the link of the page where your letter appears on the paper’s website to your TA to enter into your grade.
- 5)

Other Rules

-If you have any question or concern please come to see me during my office hours—don’t stop me before or after the class as that is not the best time to talk. If you can’t make the stated office hours, please let me know of your availability and I will accommodate you.

-If you email me with a question, whose answer is in this outline, you will not hear back from me.

-Make up exams will be allowed **only** after an official certification either from a doctor or your program counselor is provided. (See the Addendum to Course Outline at the end of syllabus).

-Students will have a two-week window to contest their marks after their tests are returned to them.

-Bring your textbook to class and the seminar. Not having the text book might impact the participation mark.

-Laptops are allowed only for class purposes; transgressors will be asked to leave the class.

-Use of cell phone, particularly texting, is prohibited and will result in your ejection from the class. Please turn your phone off in class and put them away.

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

-This outline is subject to change with sufficient notice

Class Schedule:

Week I:

Mon. Jan. 8: Introduction to the course

Wed. Jan. 10: Plato’s *Republic* (chapter I)

Week II:

Mon. Jan.15: Plato’s *Republic* (the case)

Wed. Jan. 17: Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* (chapter II)

Week III:

Mon. Jan. 22: Niccolò Machiavelli’s *The Prince* (chapter III)

Wed. Jan. 24: Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* (chapter IV)

Week IV:

Mon. Jan. 29: **TEST I**

Wed. Jan. 31: John Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* (chapter V)

Week V:

Mon. Feb. 5: John Locke's *A Letter on Toleration* (chapter V)

Wed. Feb. 7 Jean-Jacque Rousseau's *Social Contract* (chapter VI)

Week VI:

Mon. Feb. 12: Immanuel Kant's "On the Common Saying ..." (chapter VII)

Wed. Feb. 14: **TEST II**

Week VII: Winter Break

Week VIII:

Mon. Feb. 26: John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* (chapter VIII)

Wed. Feb. 28: John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism* (chapter VIII)

Week IX:

Mon. Mar 5: Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* (chapter IX)

Wed. Mar. 7: Rawls' *Theory of Justice* (chapter X)

Week X:

Mon. Mar. 12: Robert Nozick (chapter XI)

Wed. Mar. 14: **TEST III**

Week XI:

Mon. Mar. 19: Susan Moller Okin's *Justice, Gender and the Family* (chapter XII)

Wed. Mar. 21: Charles Mill's "Racial Liberalism" (chapter XIII)

Week XII:

Mon. Mar. 26: Jürgen Habermas' "3 Normative Models of Democracy" (chapter XV)

Wed. Mar. 28: Michel Foucault's "Three Lectures on Power" (chapter XVI)

Week XIII:

Mon. Mar. 2: Will Kymlicka's *Multicultural Citizenship* (chapter XVII)

Wed. Apr. 4: **TEST IV**

April 9th: Final take-home exam due. Please submit your paper to Dropbox by noon. Late essays will lose two marks each day they are late.

College of Arts Standard Statement of Expectations

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.

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day (Friday, 9 March 2018); two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for dropping courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

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.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day. For more information see the SAS web site.

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.

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.

Final Take-home Exam (35%), PHIL1010-01, Winter 2018

Essay Question: *What is the best form of government? Why?*

To begin, determine for yourself what philosophy or philosopher answers the question best. Then, reviewing the course material, construct your answer. In addition to laying out your argument also anticipates objections and try to answer them.

Length: 1900-2000 words (approximately six). **Give word count** at the end of the paper.

Format:

- Typed or word-processed using 12 point font, double-spaced, 1.5 inch margins, and printed on one side of the paper.
 - The paper should have a **title page** which includes your name and student number along with the title of the essay (the one given here), the course number, and the date.
 - The paper has to have page numbers.
 - Give complete citation for all your references in footnotes or endnotes, and give a bibliography at the end of the paper if you are using other sources than the textbook. Make sure to use the format as described in the following Learning Common Fastfacts:
- Writing University Essays:
 - <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/writing/grammar-style>

- MLA Style Referencing: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/writing/citations/mla-style>
- Chicago manual of style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Pay special attention to these conditions. 2 marks will be deducted from essays that do not adhere to each condition.

Evaluation:

Your essay will be marked as follows:

Integration of course material (understanding)	Demonstrate that you have mastered the course material and are able to synthesize aspects appropriately.	10/35
Argumentation	Present a clear thesis and present clear and proper reasoning and evidence to support your claim. This includes integration of a real-life current example.	10/35
Language Style	Essay must be clearly written, with appropriate use of technical language if necessary. There should be no spelling, grammatical errors or typos. Make sure to proofread your essay. <i>If there are typos that spell-checking would catch, 2 marks will be deducted.</i>	8/35
Organization Structure	In addition to following the guidelines in the <i>Content</i> and <i>Format/Style</i> sections, your paper must have a clear and easy-to-follow structure.	7/35

Deadline:

The essay is due on April 7th before noon.