

PHIL 1010-02 Introductory Philosophy: Social and Political Issues
M/W 9:30 – 10:20 Axelrod 100
Fall 2010

Instructor: Karyn Freedman

Email: karynf@uoguelph.ca

Office: 354 MacKinnon

Phone: 824-4120 x 53232

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 & Wednesday 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

Final Exam: Wednesday December 15th, 11:30 – 1:30, room TBA

Tutorial Leaders

Kelly Jones (tutorial sections 11, 12 & 19): jonesk@uoguelph.ca

Jaime Brenes Reyes (tutorial sections 13 & 14): jbrener@uoguelph.ca

Aaron Masecar (tutorial sections 15 & 16): amaseca@uoguelph.ca

Dan McDonald (tutorial sections 17 & 18): dmcdon03@uoguelph.ca

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 idea of a ‘politics of difference’.

Text

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

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

Email 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 Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 4th**. 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*

When you find yourself unable to meet any course requirements due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the instructor [or designated person] in writing with name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise just as soon as possible after the due date and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation is necessary, the course instructor or delegate will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08_ac.shtml). Also see the BA Counselling Office website (www.uoguelph.ca/baco)

* See below for specific details on late assignments and missed tests

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/undergrad_calendar/08-amisconduct.shtml

* **Note:** instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work, and they also have the right to enter sentences or phrases into a search engine, e.g. Google.

Recording of Materials

Presentations in relation to course work – including lectures – cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter.

Resources

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/calendar/undergraduate/current/>

Course Format

Lectures: We will meet as a class twice a week during the fall term in Axelrod 100. 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, starting the second week of classes, you will meet once a week in small groups of 20 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).

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 you will hand in one such paper. There will be an assigned reading for each of these tutorial sessions, and your paper should offer a critical analysis of some claim or argument from the 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 paper, which must be handed in at the *end* of the tutorial session in which its due. In other words, there will be no letter or number grade given to your papers; it is a pass/fail assignment, and you will pass so long as it is clear that you have done the reading and given thought to the claim or argument in question. 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.

- 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. **Mid-term test (35%).** 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 short essay questions.
 - **Students who are unable to write the mid-term due to medical reasons must submit a medical certificate.**
 3. **Final exam (45%).** This will take place during the Final Exam period as scheduled by the College of Arts (Wednesday December 15th, 11:30 – 1:30, room TBA). The exam, which is cumulative, may include some definitions, true/false questions, short answer and short essay 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
September 13 September 15 Tutorial	Class Mechanics; Introduction Critical Reasoning/Logic intro Philosophy paper writing tutorial	Kymlicka, Ch. 1 No assigned reading * no tutorial paper due
September 20 September 22 Tutorial	Utilitarianism Utilitarianism Utilitarianism	Kymlicka, Ch. 2, p. 10 – 20 Kymlicka, Ch. 2, p. 20 – 37 & 45 – 48 Kymlicka, Ch. 2, p. 37 – 45
September 27 September 29 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
October 4 October 6 Tutorial	Libertarianism Libertarianism Libertarianism	Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 100 – 110 Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 110 – 121 & 154 – 159 Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 121 – 127
October 11 October 13 Tutorial	Thanksgiving – No Class Marxism Marxism	Kymlicka, Ch. 5, p. 166 – 177 Kymlicka, Ch. 4, p. 190 – 195
October 18 October 20 Tutorial	Mid-Term Test Marxism Communitarianism	Kymlicka, Ch. 5, p. 177 – 190 & 199 – 201 Kymlicka, Ch. 6, p. 208 – 228
October 25 October 27 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
November 1 November 3 Tutorial	Multiculturalism Multiculturalism Multiculturalism	Kymlicka, Ch. 8, p. 327 – 343 Kymlicka, Ch. 8, p. 343 – 349 & 362 – 370 Kymlicka, Ch. 8, p. 349 - 362
November 8 November 10 Tutorial	Feminism Feminism Feminism	Kymlicka, Ch. 9, p. 377 – 394 Kymlicka, Ch. 9, p. 394 – 404 Kymlicka, Ch. 9, p. 404 – 420
November 15 November 17 Tutorial	Same Sex Marriage Same Sex Marriage Homosexuality & S.S. Marriage	Wedgewood (SR) Wedgewood (SR) Somerville & Mercier (SR)
November 22 November 24 Tutorial	Homosexuality Politics of Difference Anarchism	Corvino (SR) Young (SR) Wolff (SR)
November 29 December 1 * no tutorial	Anarchism Anarchism	Simmons (SR) Simmons (SR)
December 2	Final Exam Review	