



# **PHIL\*1010 Introductory Philosophy: Social and Political Issues**

## **Introductory Philosophy: Social and Political Issues**

Fall 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - August 19, 2019

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## **1 Course Details**

### **1.1 Calendar Description**

This course introduces philosophy through an examination of important issues in politics and society, such as punishment, animal rights, discrimination, war and violence, equality and property. These issues may be introduced through contemporary or historical philosophical writings.

### **1.2 Course Description**

The central question of Social and Political Philosophy is: How should we live together? One approach to this question—the “liberal” approach—starts from the idea that no one’s idea of the good life is better than anyone else’s. Its challenge then is to say what principles should nonetheless govern everyone. We will look at several ways that liberals have tried to meet this challenge. We’ll also look at ways in which philosophers have objected to, or tried to supplement, these liberal approaches. Our focus will not be on “hot button” current topics but on the theories and concepts that give us our vocabulary for talking about those topics.

### **1.3 Timetable**

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30pm–5:20pm in War Memorial Hall room 103.

Seminars: please see WebAdvisor.

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

## 1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

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## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

**Instructor:** Mark McCullagh  
**Email:** mmcculla@uoguelph.ca  
**Office:** 332 MacKinnon Building

### 2.2 Teaching Assistants

**Teaching Assistant:** Haomiao Yu  
**Email:** hyu10@uoguelph.ca

**Teaching Assistant:** Austin Blackwell  
**Email:** ablack11@uoguelph.ca

**Teaching Assistant:** Robert Minatel  
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**Teaching Assistant:** Brian Gilmour  
**Email:** bgilmo01@uoguelph.ca

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## 3 Learning Resources

The schedule of lecture topics is subject to change as the course proceeds -- please see the course website for the latest information:

<http://www.markmccullagh.ca/PHIL1010-01F19>

The login/password is will/kymlicka

The "Schedule" page on the course website will have links to my guide notes on each of the readings. These should prove helpful.

### 3.1 Required Resources

#### Textbook (Textbook)

Contemporary Political Philosophy: an Introduction, second edition, by Will Kymlicka.

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Be introduced to the use of key tools for sound justification and rational persuasion.
  2. Be introduced to the main subfields of philosophy, including moral philosophy, social and political philosophy, metaphysics [the theory of reality], epistemology [the theory of knowledge], and the history of philosophy.
  3. Understand, explain and assess the significance of basic concepts in philosophy, such as the appearance-reality distinction, the fact-value distinction, validity and soundness, free-will, knowledge, nature and community, and so on.
  4. Present a philosophical position and engage with others in discussion of the merits of the position.
  5. Argue competently for one's own view and be able to identify and critically evaluate patterns of argumentative reasoning in the work of others.
  6. Compose a piece of clear philosophical writing in which basic philosophical problems are supported by arguments.
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

For each lecture you will do some preparatory reading, which (starting in the second week) you'll be quizzed on at the start of the lecture. It is important that you do this reading, even if it isn't all entirely clear at first pass. Only with this starting effort done by you, will you start achieving greater clarity on it from the lectures and the seminar discussions.

Seminar discussions are important, and your participation in them is required for part of the course grade.

You'll also contribute several brief pieces of writing to your seminar's Graduate Teaching Assistant (using the course website to submit it).

There will also be one in-class test and a final examination.

## 5.1 Lecture

**Mon, Sep 9 - Fri, Nov 29**

**Topics:**

Sept 9: Introduction

Sept 11: Introduction to Utilitarianism (read 1-20)

Sept 16: Challenges to Utilitarianism (read 20-48)

Sept 18: Rawls: justice as fairness (read 53-70)

Sept 23: Fixing up Rawls (read 70-82)

Sept 25: Implications of Rawls's and Dworkin's theories (read 82-96)

Sept 30: Libertarianism (read 102-27)

Oct 2: Morals by agreement (read 128-38)

Oct 7: Capitalism and freedom (read 138-59)

Oct 11: midterm exam

Oct 21: Freedom vs community (read 221-44)

Oct 23: Solidarity vs autonomy (read 244-61)

Oct 28: Nationhood (read 261-73)

Oct 30: Aristotelian citizenship (read 284-302)

Nov 4: Democratic citizenship (read 302-19)

Nov 6: Minority rights (read 327-43)

Nov 11: National minorities (read 343-52, selection from Dale Turner)

Nov 13: Other minorities (read 352-70)

Nov 18: Sexual inequality (read 377-98)

Nov 20: Women and Rawls (read Okin 42-52)

Nov 25: Gender and liberalism (read Okin 52-72)

Nov 27: An ethic of care (read 398-420)

Nov 20: review

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## **6 Assessments**

### **6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions**

Item	Value
Quizzes (all 19 are graded, best 15 count)	15
<b>7</b> Writings (5 of these, best 4 count)	5 x 4 = 20
<b>U</b> Seminar participation	15
Midterm	20
<b>n</b> Final exam	30

## iversity Statements

### 7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### 7.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

## 7.4 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.

## 7.5 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 Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 7.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08->

amisconduct.shtml

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## **7.7 Recording of Materials**

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

## **7.8 Resources**

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

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

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