



PHIL*2280 Key Concepts in Political Philosophy

Fall 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 2.00 - October 07, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course presents an in-depth treatment of one or more key concepts in political philosophy. Among the many possible concepts that the course may address are those of freedom, equality, power, community, identity, autonomy, justice, rights, political obligation, representation, authority, legitimacy, exploitation, emancipation, and development. These concepts may be explored historically or through contemporary political and/or philosophical debates.

Pre-Requisites: 0.50 credits in either Philosophy or Political Science

Restrictions: POLS*2000

1.2 Course Description

This course will begin with a discussion of what the term "politics" covers, and the similarities and differences between political philosophy and political theory. We will then discuss the development of political concepts and forms in historical and world context. Following that, we will examine the rise of liberalism and democracy in greater detail, as well as some challenges to them. We will end with a discussion of the interaction between ethics, political philosophy, and public policy.

1.3 Timetable

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:20 a.m., MCKN 120

1.4 Final Exam

Wednesday, 04 December, 7-9 p.m., room TBA

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Professor Wendling
Email:	wendling@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53229
Office:	MCKN 359
Office Hours:	Tu Th 11:30-1, and by appointment

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant:	Andrew Freundlich
Email:	afreundl@uoguelph.ca
Teaching Assistant:	Gordon Trenbeth
Email:	gtrenbet@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Wolff, An Introduction to Political Philosophy, third edition (Textbook)

On reserve at the library

The Politics Book (Textbook)

Wolff, Ethics and Public Policy, second edition (Textbook)

Wendling, What Do Philosophers Do? (Readings)

On the Content page of Courselink

Wendling, Gov't (Readings)

On the Content page of Courselink

Wendling, Lib'sm (Readings)

On the Content page of Courselink

Wendling, Myths (Readings)

On the Content page of Courselink

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand, explain and assess major historical and/or conceptual

developments in political philosophy and theory, including perspectives on the nature of political judgments and different frameworks for making political decisions, and apply them to issues such as economic systems, nationalism, war, and specific public policies.

2. 2. Identify and critically evaluate the practical significance of central issues in political philosophy and theory.
3. 3. Read and comprehend texts and arguments about the history and problems of political philosophy and theory.
4. 4. Write clearly and cogently on basic problems and concepts in political philosophy and theory.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topics:

WI = Wolff, Introduction; PB = Politics Book; WE = Wolff, Ethics & Public Policy; [C] = Courselink

Th 05 Sept. Introduction

Tu 10 Sept. Political philosophy, theory, & history; read Wendling, WDPD? [C]

Th 12 Sept. Political philosophy, theory, & history; read WI 1-5; PB 20-31, 54-59

Tu 17 Sept. Monarchy & aristocracy: norms; read WI 66-77; PB 44-48, 58-59

Th 19 Sept. Monarchy & aristocracy: raw power; read PB 74-81

Tu 24 Sept. War, just war, anti-war; read PB 28-33, 66, 86-87, 160, 247

Th 26 Sept. Test 1 in class -- everyone must take this test

Tu 01 Oct. Democracy: history & justification; read WI 62-66; Wendling, Gov't [C]

Th 03 Oct. Rousseau; read WI 77-93

Tu 08 Oct. Representative democracy; read WI 93-103, PB 246

Th 10 Oct. Liberalism: history & theory; read WI 104-114; Wendling, Lib'sm [C]

(Tu 15 Oct. Fall study break – no classes)

Th 17 Oct. Test 2 (in class) or Essay Outline due

Tu 22 Oct. The liberty principle; read WI 114-125

Th 24 Oct. Criticisms of liberalism; read WI 125-133

Tu 29 Oct. Justice & the market; read WI 134-149; Wendling, Myths [C]

Th 31 Oct. Marx & Engels; read WI 149-153; PB 188-193

Tu 05 Nov. Rawls, Sen, & Nussbaum

Th 07 Nov. Test 3 (in class) or Essay due

Tu 12 Nov. Broadening equality; read WI 179-203; PB 316-321, 328

Th 14 Nov. Broadening equality; continue reading WI 179-203; PB 316-321, 328

Tu 19 Nov. Justice everywhere & everywhen; read WI 203-215; PB 290-293, 304-307

Th 21 Nov. Public policy: drugs; read WE 61-82

Tu 26 Nov. Public policy: safety; read WE 83-108

Th 28 Nov. Wrap-up

6 Assessments

The tests and the final exam are all open-book and open-note. They will involve some combination of short-answer and short-essay questions.

6.1 Assessment Details

Best 2 of 3 items (70%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4

You must choose **one** of the following two options. You may not do both.

Option a: Best 2 of 3 tests

- Test 1 (required), Th 26 Sept., in class, worth 35%
- Test 2, Th 17 Oct., in class, worth 35%
- Test 3, Th 07 Nov., in class, worth 35%

Option b: Best 2 of 3 grades on Test 1 plus Essay

- Test 1 (required), Th 26 Sept., in class, worth 35%
- Essay outline, due Th 17 Oct. at 10 a.m. (pass/fail)
- Essay, due Th 07 Nov. at 10 a.m., worth 70%, broken into two parts of 35% each

I will enter the Essay in the Gradebook as two identical 35% grades. You will receive the best two of Test 1 (35%), Essay (35%), and Essay (35%).

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Everyone must take Test 1.

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The Gradebook on Courselink will contain an item called Tests &/or Essay, with three entries: Test 1, Test 2/Essay, and Test 3/Essay. If you choose option a and write only two tests, it will show that you have a zero for one test grade. Don't worry. I will set up the Gradebook to choose the best two of the three grades, so that zero will be dropped.

Final Exam (30%)

Date: Wed, Dec 4, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, TBA

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4

The final exam will be similar to the tests.

It will be open-book and open-note.

6.2 Information on the essay outline and essay

The essay outline is your permission to write the essay. If you do not turn in the essay outline on time or if you fail it, you will default to option a (best two of three tests).

You must submit **both** a hard (paper) copy of your essay outline **and** an electronic copy to the Dropbox on Courselink. The hard copy is for us to grade, and the electronic copy is your proof that you submitted the essay outline, and when. We will not accept your essay outline if you do not submit both copies on time.

Both copies are due at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 17 October.

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The essay will be 800-1000 words, 1200 words maximum, on an assigned topic. You will have some choice of topics. I will post the topics on Courselink by midnight on Wednesday, 09 October.

You must submit **both** a hard (paper) copy of your essay **and** an electronic copy to the Dropbox on Courselink. The hard copy is for us to grade, and the electronic copy is your proof that you submitted the essay, and when.

We will deduct 10% from your grade if you do not submit both the hard and electronic copies. The essay counts as submitted only when we have both the hard and the electronic copies.

Both copies are due at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 07 November.

7 Course Statements

7.1 No laptops or other electronics in the classroom

Laptops **may not** be used in class unless (1) you are registered with Student Accessibility Services or (2) you have documentation indicating that you are taking notes for SAS. **Anyone using a laptop must have a sticker from SAS on the outside of their laptop.**

No other electronic devices, including but not limited to cellphones, may be used without my permission.

Exceptions: You **may** use a laptop for the tests and the final exam.

7.2 Lecture notes

I do not post lecture notes.

7.3 Email is for emergencies only

If you have a question or a request, please speak to me in person, before or after class, or in my office hours. I will not respond to questions or requests by email that you could have made in person.

7.4 Academic probation

If you are on Academic Probation, you have until **Friday, September 13** to tell me, so we can work together to help you do well in this course.

7.5 Make-up tests

Make-up tests will be given only if you provide a note from a doctor, your Program Counsellor, or SAS.

7.6 Late essays, late penalties, & assignment expectations: Essay

Extensions on compassionate grounds must go through your Program Counsellor or SAS. Extensions on other grounds will require a good reason. I may require a note from your doctor, Program Counsellor, or SAS.

Normally, essays that arrive on time (10 a.m. on Thursday, November 7) will be returned in class on Tuesday, November 19. Late essays will be returned when we get around to them.

I will not accept late essays after Thursday, November 28.

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Late penalties on the essay are 2% per day, to a maximum of 15%. Saturday and Sunday count 2% each. Essays that come in after Thursday, November 19 will be graded by higher standards.

My late penalties are minor, but my penalties for sloppy work are major. If you write your essay at the last minute, take an extra day or two to polish it. The 2-4% you lose will be substantially less than the 10% or more that you will lose if you turn in an essay that has not been polished and proofread.

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Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis in your essay. I will not accept an essay in which the relevant course readings and discussions are not central to your analysis. Outside research is unnecessary, and may lower your grade.

I reserve the right to require an oral examination as part of any written piece of work. In that case, the oral examination counts for 75% of your grade on that assignment.

Your essay must be spell-checked. We will deduct 10% from your grade on the essay for the kinds of mistakes that spell-check would have caught.

8 University Statements

8.1 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.

8.2 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>

8.3 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>

8.4 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.

8.5 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>

8.6 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>

8.7 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.

8.8 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>
