



PHIL*4410 Major Texts in Philosophy

Fall 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - October 10, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

Advanced study of a major text in philosophy not treated in either PHIL*4400 or PHIL*4420.

Pre-Requisites: 1.00 credits in Philosophy at the 3000 level

1.2 Course Description

PHIL*4410 (cross listed with PHIL*6930)

Capabilities theory is probably the most interesting political theory since utilitarianism. In this course, we will examine capabilities theory through the work of Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum. Since both Sen's and Nussbaum's work assumes a familiarity with Rawls, we will begin with his *Justice As Fairness: A Restatement*. We will move on to Nussbaum's *Frontiers of Justice*, and finally to Sen's *The Idea of Justice*.

1.3 Timetable

Mondays 2:30-5:20 p.m., MacKinnon 315

1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam in this course.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Karen Wendling
Email:	wendling@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53229

Office: MCKN 359
Office Hours: Tu Th 11:30-1 and by appointment.

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Rawls, *Justice As Fairness: A Restatement* (Textbook)

Nussbaum, *Frontiers of Justice* (Textbook)

Sen, *The Idea of Justice* (Textbook)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Orally Articulate and Defend a position on the course material, either in class discussion or in a formal presentation, that is clear, accurate and well-reasoned.
 2. Demonstrate Independence in articulating an original approach to the material in this course.
 3. Write clearly and cogently on the material in this course.
 4. Read extensively and systematically in theories of justice.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

For the class schedule, see the Content page of CourseLink.

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

participation (10%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 4

How pass/fail will be counted:

- Pass = reasonable participation in at least 9 classes
- Fail = 0

Commentaries (20%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4

4 of 5 commentaries: list of groups and due dates posted on the Content page of Courselink.

How pass/fail will be counted:

- Pass = 4 passed commentaries
- Fail = 0

Essay 1 (35%)

Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4

due Monday, 21 October on assigned topics; you will have some choice

the essay will be 1500-2500 words, 3000 words maximum

further details on Courselink

Essay 2 (35%)

Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4

due Monday, 09 December on assigned topics; you will have some choice

the essay will be 1500-2500 words, 3000 words maximum

further details on Courselink

6.2 Information on the essays

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 me to grade, and the electronic copy is your proof that you submitted the essay, and when.

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

Both copies are due at the same time.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Late essays, late penalties, & assignment expectations: Essays

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 will be returned in class two weeks later. Late essays will be returned when I 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 I hand back the graded copies 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. I 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>
