

PHIL 1010-01 Social and Political Issues

Fall 2023

Please see WebAdvisor for instructor information

Undergraduate Calendar description

This is the course information contained in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#):

PHIL*1010 Social and Political Issues Fall and Winter (LEC: 3) [0.50]

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.

Offering(s): Also offered through Distance Education format.

Department(s): Department of Philosophy

Location(s): Guelph

Learning outcomes

1. Be introduced to the use of key tools for sound justification and rational persuasion.
2. Be introduced to social and political philosophy.
3. Understand, explain and assess the significance of basic concepts in philosophy.
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.

Resources

CourseLink The course website is [PHIL 1010-01, Fall 2023](#). I will post supplementary notes and self-testing questions, so you can gauge how well you understand the readings.

Texts Readings are available within Perusall, which is an online collaborative reading platform. *Do not set up an account on Perusall. Instead use the links to it that you will find within CourseLink.* Once you've clicked into Perusall you'll be able to buy the textbook. (It is *Political Philosophy*, by Steven M. Cahn, 4th edition.)

Lectures Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30–3:20 pm in War Memorial Hall 103. Laptops may be used during lectures, but not in a way that distracts other students—note-taking and reading only.

Office hours I will run my office hours [on Teams, Mondays and Tuesdays 3:30–4:30 pm](#). Office hours are an opportunity for you to drop in and ask questions about the course. Similarly, your Teaching Assistant will run their own office hours. They will announce these to you at your first seminar meeting.

Policies

I do not have a fixed penalty scheme for course components being submitted late. If you are unable to complete some work on time, please contact your Teaching Assistant (if it is about a discussion-starter presentation) or me (if it is a Perusall assignment, a quiz, or an essay).

You are responsible for reading the [Standard Statements](#) which cover:

- email communication (if I emailed to your uoguelph.ca address, then you've been told whatever's in that email);
- what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement;
- drop date;
- copies of assignments (keep them!);
- academic misconduct—what it is; what the penalties are;
- recording of materials. You do not have my permission to do any lecture recordings.

Work

<i>Value</i>	<i>Work component</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>
14%	Contribute to reading discussions on Perusall. I will explain how to do this.	2, 3, 4, 5
16%	Do 4 online quizzes, which will test your comprehension of the readings. Questions on these quizzes will be drawn from the comprehension questions that I'll post along with each reading. Quiz dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 28• October 19• November 9• November 30	1, 2, 3
20%	Write 2 brief essays, 800 words or so. I will offer a choice of topics on these and will explain the format. Due dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 13• November 17	4, 5, 6
10%	Contribute an oral discussion-starter comment to your seminar. Just 1 or 2 minutes; say something interesting about that week's reading. Your student number determines which week you speak—see the schedule.	1, 4, 5
10%	Participate (i.e. speak) in seminar discussions. There's no fixed rule like "You have to speak each week," but you do have to participate in order to get this credit. Just showing up doesn't count for this.	1, 4, 5
30%	Write a final, in-person exam.	1, 2, 3

Schedule of lectures and readings

In this schedule, "4" students means: the students whose student numbers end in "4" are doing their oral discussion-starter comments that week. Etc.

<i>Week/ Oral comments</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
September 11, 13	Introduction to course; what is philosophy?	[none]
September 18, 20 “0” students	Socrates on justice: initial definitions and their problems; the “healthy” city and the “luxurious” city	<i>Republic</i> Book I up to 336d (pp. 32–39); Book II 368e–377c (pp. 57–63)
September 25, 27 “1” students	The noble lie; rules concerning the sexes, children and property	<i>Republic</i> Book III 412b–415d (pp. 65–66); Book V 451c–473d (pp. 71–81)
October 2, 4 “2” students	Aristotle: priority of the city; natural slavery; criticisms of Plato’s proposals; the best kind of city	<i>Politics</i> Books I and II selections (pp. 105–115); Book IV, chapter 11 (pp. 121–23)
October 11 “3” students	Hobbes: the state of war and how to get out of it	<i>Leviathan</i> chs 13, 17 and 18 (pp. 202–04, 213–19)
October 16, 18 “4” students	Locke: natural law and rights; consent to being governed	<i>Second Treatise of Government</i> chs II–IV, VII–IX (pp. 251–57, 263–68)
October 23, 24 “5” students	Du Bois: who should get a vote?	“Of the ruling of men” (pp. 637–46)
October 30, November 1 “6” students	Rawls: blindly, but rationally, choosing basic principles for society	Selections from <i>A Theory of Justice</i> : pp. 708–21
November 6, 8 “7” students	Debating Rawls: ideal and non-ideal theory	Shelby, “Racial realities and corrective justice: a reply to Charles Mills”
November 13, 15 “8” students	Two kinds of egalitarianism	First half of Anderson, “What is the point of equality?” (pp. 855–65)
November 20, 22 “9” students	Implementing democratic equality	Second half of Anderson, “What is the point of equality?” (pp. 865–72)
November 27, 29, December 1	Identity and cosmopolitanism; summary of course; final exam prep	Selections from Appiah, <i>The Ethics of Identity</i> (pp. 895–904)
December 15	Final exam, 2:30–4:30 pm	

Discussion sections

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
01	Thursday 9:30–10:20	MacNaughton 202	Josh Grant-Young jgrantyo@uoguelph.ca
02	Thursday 10:30–11:20	Macdonald Institute 128	Gordon Trenbeth gtrenbet@uoguelph.ca
03	Thursday 2:30–3:20	Animal Science & Nutrition 306	Ilknur Ozalli iozalli@uoguelph.ca
04	Thursday 3:30–4:20	MacKinnon 309	Chelsea Emery memery@uoguelph.ca
05	Thursday 4:30–5:20	MacNaughton 202	Gordon Trenbeth gtrenbet@uoguelph.ca
06	Thursday 7:00–7:50 PM	Macdonald Institute 101	Chelsea Emery memery@uoguelph.ca
07	Friday 9:30–10:20	Crop Science 403	Riley Grew dgrew@uoguelph.ca
08	Friday 10:30–11:20	Macdonald Institute 128	Ilknur Ozalli iozalli@uoguelph.ca
09	Friday 11:30–12:20	Rozanski 109	Greg Cote gcote02@uoguelph.ca
10	Friday 12:30–1:20	MacNaughton 201	Gordon Trenbeth gtrenbet@uoguelph.ca
11	Friday 1:30–2:20	Alexander 309	Matthew Craig mcraig03@uoguelph.ca
12	Friday 2:30–3:20	Rozanski 107	Matthew Craig mcraig03@uoguelph.ca
13	Friday 3:30–4:20	MacNaughton 201	Riley Grew dgrew@uoguelph.ca
14	Friday 4:30–5:20	Macdonald Institute 101	Ilknur Ozalli iozalli@uoguelph.ca
15	Wednesday 4:30–5:20	MacKinnon 315	Greg Cote gcote02@uoguelph.ca
16	Wednesday 7:00–7:50 PM	Rozanski 108	Greg Cote gcote02@uoguelph.ca