



PHIL*4230 Current Debates in Social and Political Philosophy

Fall 2020

Section(s): 01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 2.00 - August 06, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This is an advanced level course that examines in detail selected historical or contemporary treatments of specific issues in social and political philosophy.

Pre-Requisites: 1.00 credits in Philosophy at the 3000 level or 12.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

The course is a close study of Kant's Political Writing with special focus on justice, democracy, rights, and constitution-making. Students are encouraged to critically engage and reflect upon these topics by way of discussion and presentation in the class. The aim is to realize and appreciate the significance of Kant's work for contemporary political institutions and ideas.

1.3 Timetable

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

1.4 Final Exam

The course does not have a final exam.

There is a final essay instead.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: Omid Payrow Shabani
Email: oshabani@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: +1-519-824-4120 x53201
Office: MCKN 327

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Kant Political Writings, ed. H.S. Reiss, Cambridge University Press, 2000 (Textbook)

3.2 Suggested Readings:

Kant, Immanuel. *Prolegomena to any Further Metaphysics*. Trans Paul Carus, Hackett

Publishing Company, 1977.

----- *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Trans. H.J. Paton, Harper Torvhbooks,

1964.

----- *Practical Philosophy*, Trans. By Mary J. Gregor, New York: Cambridge

University Press, 1996

----- *The Philosophy of Law*, Trans. W. Hastie, New York: Augustus M. Kelley

Publisher, 1974.

-*Kant and Political Philosophy*, edited by Ronald Beiner and William James Booth, New

Haven: Yale University Press, 1993

-*Perpetual Peace*, edited by James Bohman and Matthias Lutz-Bachmann, Cambridge,

MA: MIT Press, 1997

-*The Cambridge Companion to Kant*, ed. Paul Guyer, New York: Cambridge University

Press, 1992

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Have improved their communicative (both oral and written) skills.
 2. Students should develop a good understanding of the history of the development of the idea of justice, republican state, and cosmopolitanism in Kant's work.
 3. Students should be able to formulate a critical position on such issues as mentioned above.
 4. Students should acquire a sense of Kantian moral and political reasoning.
 5. Students should get an improved sense of critical and analytic competencies—vis a vis contemporary political issues.
-

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

1) Tests: Three tests that are made of 5 short-answer questions.

2) Critical Summaries: Critical summary assignment is a one-page single-spaced text, where the students aim to demonstrate their understanding of the assigned reading. You should hand in ten to obtain the maximum mark of 20%. Students should submit their summaries to me in class.

3) The Essay:

Here is the title of the essay: "In the debate between Kant and Moses Mendelssohn on the progress of human race throughout history, what side would you take ? Explain and justify." This title ought to appear on your title page. The essay is due on the last day of classes. It should be submitted to Dropbox as well. It should be double-spaced, one-sided print, using font 12, no more than 1-inch margin, between 3,200 to 3,500 words (12 to 13 pages). In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

6.2 Assessment Details

Critical Summaries (20%)

One a week for total of 10 @ 2% each.=20%

Final Paper (35%)

Dec. 2nd: Please submit your essay to dropbox by noon. Late essays will incur a penalty of 5 marks per day.

Test (45%)

Date: On line

Three tests, each weight 15% for total of 45%

7 Course Statements

7.1 Course Format

Given the safety concerns due to Covid-19, the course is organized as an online course. Weekly readings will be done and discussed in a discussion forum. Notes for these readings will be made available prior to their due date on the class schedule. Tests are given after one third of the material is presented every month. Finally, an essay will gauge students understanding of Kant's political writings. I will be available throughout the course either by email or through the discussion board

7.2 Schedule of Readings

Schedule of readings will be available in a separate page here.

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>

8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

8.10 Illness

The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.
